

# TOC H JOURNAL



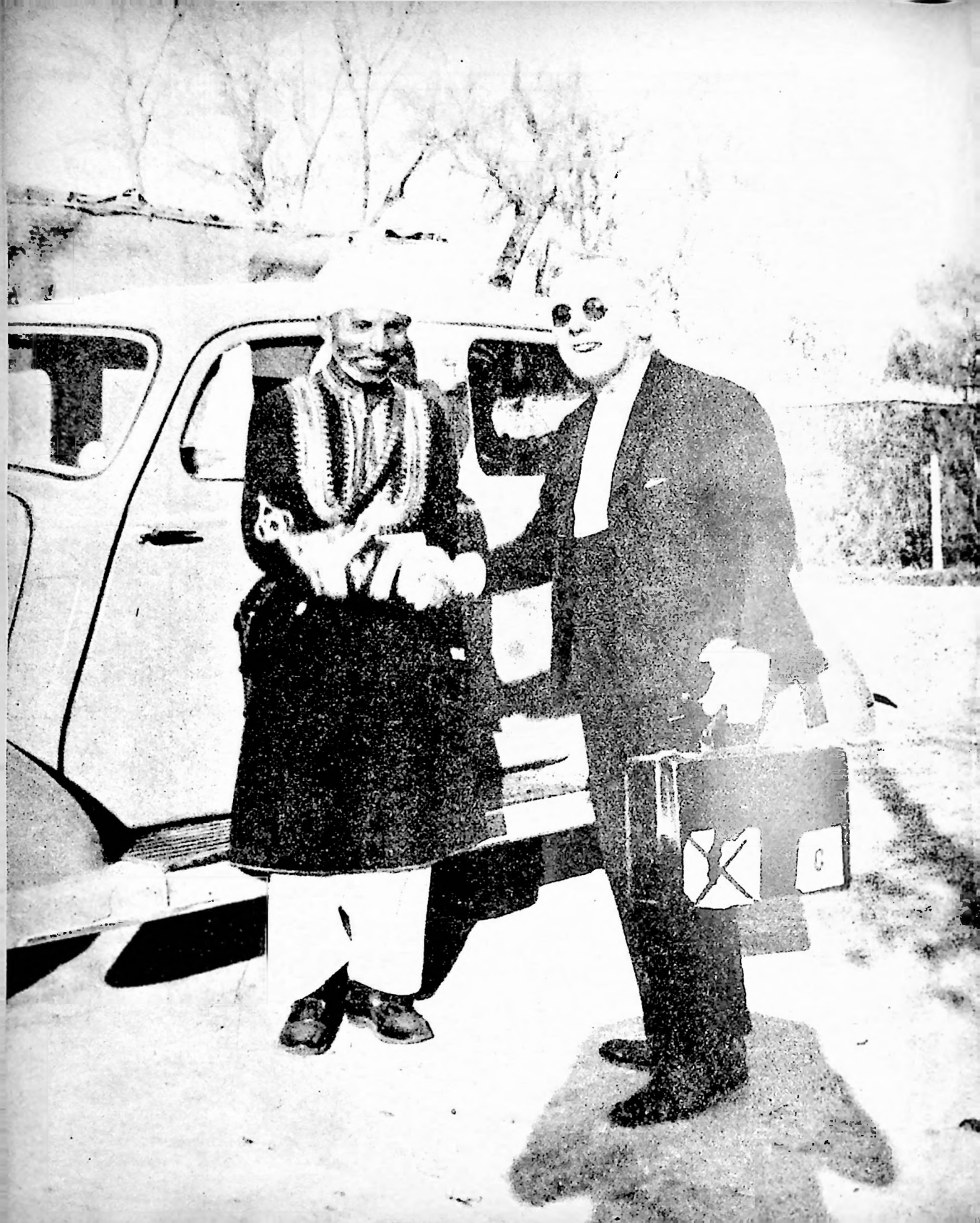
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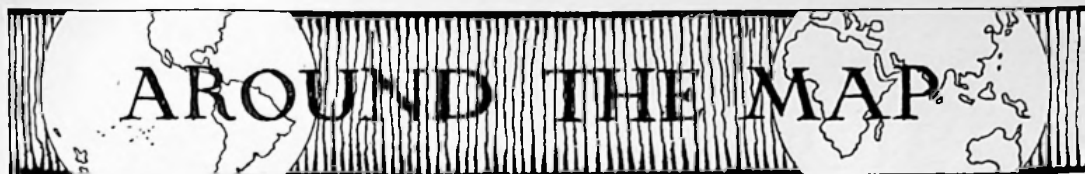
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VOLUME XVII.

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NO Toc H Rally this Summer is likely to be jollier or more popular than the one staged by Chilterns Area at Eton College on June 10. 1,200 people applied for tickets, there was room actually in the Chapel and Hall for about 700, and 800 came. During the early afternoon big parties wandered round, under the guidance of Eton boys, through the ancient buildings and under the grand elms which frame the "playing-fields of Eton" and the bank of the Thames, with its view of Windsor Castle in the hot sunshine. The Chapel, crowded to capacity at 5 o'clock, was a fine sight; the Provost of Eton (Lord Hugh Cecil) read the Lesson, the Conduct of Eton (Rev. T. W. Heale) spoke from the pulpit of his experience of the Old House in war-time. In the Gymnasium the company sat on the floor and took their tea; in the School Hall they sang under George Brockless and listened to Pat Leonard. How better could Toc H and its friends spend a cloudless Saturday afternoon in June?

\* \* \* \*

In the April JOURNAL reference was made to the Garden Party which is to be held on July 19 at Hampton Court Palace for Toc H, its Builders and friends. Several further "At Homes" have since then been held with a view to making the Party and its object better known and it now only remains for the Clerk of the Weather to do his share in welcoming visitors to this wonderful old building and garden.

Her Majesty the Queen has promised to be present and the afternoon will be an

opportunity to show our affection for her and our warm appreciation of the great success that she and the King have recently won on the other side of the Atlantic.

\* \* \* \*

The tenth Annual Report has just reached us of the Toc H Boys' Hostel, Maritzburg, Natal. This hostel was inaugurated by the local branches of Toc H in 1928 and was opened in rented premises in May, 1929. Two years later the present premises were purchased. In the ten years under review the Hostel has housed 90 boys who would otherwise not have been able to attend school in Maritzburg, or—in some cases—would not have been able to commence their business lives in such favourable surroundings. There are at present 16 boys in residence, their ages ranging from 10 to 18. Board rate is charged according to the circumstances of the boy or his parents and range from £1 10s. od. to £3 per month. Free medical, dental and hospital treatment is provided, and in some cases free clothing. In addition to providing the majority of members on the Board of Management, Toc H supplies men on two evenings each week to relieve the Matron and supervise the boys and their homework.

\* \* \* \*

Refugee families and Toc H members in Sydney have been meeting together every week for some time now with most helpful results. Each Friday evening about 100 of these unfortunate folk from abroad gather together to make new friends and to hear talks on essential subjects for their information, while tours of Sydney and out-



lying districts are from time to time arranged. The need for such practical demonstrations of "friendship in action" is likely to increase as fresh parties of refugees arrive.

\* \* \* \*

Our picture on this page shows the Showman's Rest Tent at the Sheffield Whitsuntide Fair in the centre of the city. The tent, which was erected and staffed by members of Sheffield Toc H units and nicely situated between the "Ossified Gangster" and the "Indian Strip Tease," was open for a fortnight continuously except between 1.30 a.m. and 6.45 a.m. Altogether between 60 and 70 members shared duty between them. This is the sixth year of the Tent's appearance at Sheffield and as usual there was no lack of evidence that it was tremendously appreciated. The idea originated about eight years ago in the West Country, and since then Toc H tents have made their appear-

ance in a good many other places up and down the country where there are Fairgrounds.

\* \* \* \*

The two articles about Work Camps which have appeared in the JOURNAL recently ("Spades are Trumps" in March, and "From Spades to Hearts" in June) have aroused considerable interest, and we print two letters on the subject in this month's "Open Hustings." One of these is from John Hoyland, the originator of the scheme, who appeals for still more parties during the present summer. We know of no more entirely satisfying way for a member of Toc H to spend his holiday. The cancellation of school O.T.C. camps provides an opportunity for many senior schoolboys to use part of the time usually spent at one of these in some such way as this, and the Schools Section are letting all affiliated schools know of the various possibilities open to them.

In April last year we printed a letter in "The Open Hustings," under the heading of "Ciné Service," describing the job being done by Braintree Group with a portable cinema. This job, we hear, still goes on and ever-increasing demands are being made on the services of the team responsible. In all they have now given 119 free shows in hospital, infirmaries, institutions, etc., and give a regular two-hour entertainment every Sunday evening in Halstead Hospital. Films are rented at a special reduced rate, and their machine (a Pathéscope 200 B) is capable of projecting a good clear 10 feet to 12 feet picture. They are now after a Talkie outfit which they have been offered for £52. The Group Secretary (24, George Road, Braintree, Essex) will be glad to answer enquiries about the working of the scheme.

\* \* \* \*

The series of "Effective Service" articles which have been appearing in the JOURNAL since March of last year was concluded last month with the twelfth article, and for the benefit of Jobmasters and others we print below a list of the subjects covered and the month in which they appeared:—

1. Prison Visiting	March, 1938.	p. 107
2. Voluntary Worker and Hospital Patient	April, 1938.	p. 158
3. Toc H and Institutions	May, 1938.	p. 208
4. Borstal and After	June, 1938.	p. 239
5. The Older Unemployed	September, 1938.	p. 289
6. The Boys' Brigade	October, 1938.	p. 338
7. The Probation Officer	November, 1938.	p. 396
8. Public Opinion and Outdoor Advertising	December, 1938.	p. 445
9. The Service of the Blind	January, 1939.	p. 15
10. Toc H and Boys' Clubs	March, 1939.	p. 81
11. Rovering	May, 1939.	p. 161
12. The Needs of the Deaf and Dumb	June, 1939.	p. 190

An article entitled "Lamps and Jobmasters," which appeared in the JOURNAL for January, 1938 (p. 7) was intended to serve as a sort of preface to this series and contained a classified list of selected "Service" articles which had been previously published.

\* \* \* \*

A new book will be published by Toc H on October 1, price 1s. Its title is *Other Drummers* and its author Jim Burford. The first part deals with the conflicting ideas which lie behind the present world unrest, the second with the Bible.

## THE ELDER BRETHREN

BOON.—In January, 1939, A. BOON, a member of West Moors Branch. Elected 30.5.38.

BRINKWORTH.—In May, 1939, H. A. BRINKWORTH, a member of West Croydon Branch. Elected 14.3.39.

JOHNSON.—On December 28, 1938, JOSEPH JOHNSON, a member of East Keswick Group. Elected 16.12.35.

KIRBY.—In May, 1939, MATTHEW KIRBY, a member of Blencathra Sanatorium Group. Elected 16.2.39.

MELLON.—On June 2, 1939, HERBERT J. MELLON, a member of Bromley Branch. Elected May, 1924.

MORGAN.—On April 17, 1939, HAYDN MORGAN, Jobmaster of Abernant Group.

Aged 31 years. Elected 10.10.35.

PATEMAN.—On April 19, 1939, ERNEST HARRY PATEMAN, a member of East Keswick Group. Elected 16.6.33.

STRAITH.—In January, 1939, Corporal F. R. STRAITH, R.A.F., while stationed at Aberdeen (Dyce) Aerodrome. A former member of Kalafrana Group, Malta.

STYLES.—On June 2, 1939, JESSE STYLES, a member of Swanage Group. Aged 57 years. Elected 30.6.30.

SYKES.—In May, 1939, Canon F. M. SYKES, O.B.E., a former Vice-Principal of Knutsford Test School, and later of Middlesbrough Branch. Elected 1.7.20.



**I**N an article in the JOURNAL of November, 1938, written when the September “crisis” was still fresh in everyone’s mind, I wrote thus:—

Another effect of the crisis is individual and personal to each of us. Confronted no longer with the theory of what we should do if war ever came, but by the apparent fact that it was actually upon us, we all had to make up our minds clearly what we would do. The issue of ‘pacifism,’ which has rightly perplexed great numbers of our members during the last twenty years, had now to be decided, especially by each man of military age . . . There is no subject which it is harder “to think fairly” about or “to love widely” over, when the actual moment comes, none in which it is more difficult to recognise the “humble witness” of the man you disagree with . . . The test has not come this time—we hope it may never come. If it ever does come, Toc H, as a spiritual movement, may be shaken; it will stand or fall by its success or failure to maintain brotherhood among men, despite all differences.

Our “brave new world,” so proud of its outspokenness, shrinks from using rough words for rough things. An industrial slump, with its attendant miseries, is now a “recession,” a workhouse is now “The Institution,” the parts of the country devastated by chronic unemployment are now “Special Areas,” and the outbreak of world-war, too hideous in plain language for official documents or polite conversation, has assumed the fashionable disguise of “a national emergency.” As events have turned out, it has not needed the full horror of a “national emergency” in this technical sense to force upon the twenty-year-olds of our country the decision referred to in the November JOURNAL. On May 26, 1939, the Military Training Bill became law, and on June 3 nearly 220,000 men between 20 and 21 years of age registered themselves, as required by the Act, for compulsory service. Some 3,000 of these (actually it was 1.7 per cent. of the whole) chose to register themselves as conscientious objectors to military training.

The passage of the Act was remarkable. Considering that it flatly contradicted a Government pledge, constantly repeated, that no measure of conscription would be introduced in peace-time (but *is* this peace-time, in any reasonable sense?) and that it contradicted still more the very old national tradition of voluntary service in the armed forces, the weight of opposition to it was extraordinarily small. The Labour Party, its official opponents in Parliament, condemned it strongly in words—and co-operated, by constructive criticism and amendment, to improve the Bill at all stages and to make it much more acceptable to the country. Outside Parliament the Labour Party, at its annual Conference, condemned the Act again by an enormous majority, and, by a majority almost as striking, strictly forbade “direct action” in resisting it. But we are not concerned here with the “official” opposition—on that, as on every other subject, Toc H members will have most varied and conflicting views. We are, on the other hand, bound to be concerned with the personal, individual opposition of the conscientious objector. For this vitally concerns some of the members of Toc H, our fellow-members, our own friends. It is therefore a “family concern.”

From the first, before the text of the Military Training Bill was made public, conscientious objectors were foreseen and taken into account. Their case in the war of 1914-1918 was remembered; as Mr. Ernest Brown, Minister of Labour, said in Parliament, “we have learnt our lesson.” It has been an unhappy memory, as humiliating to those who had dealt with the objectors as to the objectors themselves. For the real “c.o.”, the out-and-out non-co-operator, usually remained a free man at heart, tortured by fewer doubts than

many of his fellows outside the prison bars. He was contemptuously labelled "conchie," he was accused of cowardice, not seldom bullied again and again by courts of law, put to the most menial tasks that could be found, often rejected for ever afterwards by some who had been his friends. Where his conviction was certain and his conscience set, he reckoned "conchie" as honourable a nickname as did the first century men of Antioch theirs of "Christian"; he knew that his difficult choice was not due to cowardice but demanded constantly a particular kind of courage. He did dirty work not grudgingly but as dutifully as any soldier. He did not expect to be understood but, again and again, he shamed his captors when their aim (as he knew) was to break his spirit. The record of the nation's treatment of those of its citizens whose conscience objected twenty and more years ago is not a proud one. There must be some better way of dealing with men who differ, even in so important a civic concern as armed resistance to an enemy. The Military Training Act of 1939 makes an honest effort to find one.

#### The Provisions of the Act

First, then, lest there be vagueness or doubt among us, let us summarise what the new Act lays down in this matter. It is contained in Section 3 of the Act, which has 13 paragraphs, occupying nearly four pages of print\* :—

1. The provisions of the Act "shall be deemed to be complied with by any person if . . . he furnishes the prescribed particulars about himself and makes application in the prescribed manner to be registered as a conscientious objector in a special register kept by the Minister" (of Labour). He will not be prosecuted for delay in registering, provided he applies before proceedings are taken; even if he is found guilty of an offence by not registering, he may still apply to be registered as a conscientious objector.

2. Three categories of conscientious objectors are recognised—those who object (a) to being registered in the military training register; (b) to undergoing military training; (c) to performing combatant duties.

3. All such applicants shall be registered provisionally in the register of conscientious objectors and not in the military training register.

4. All c.o.'s shall, within a given time, make a statement to a "Local Tribunal" of the grounds of their objection.

5. Any c.o. "who is aggrieved by any order of a Local Tribunal, and the Minister, if he considers it necessary," may appeal to the "Appellate Tribunal," and the decision of this Tribunal shall be final.

6. The Minister, or any person authorised by him, shall be entitled to be heard by this Tribunal.

7. A Local Tribunal, if satisfied that the applicant has made his case as a c.o., shall order him to be either (a) registered finally as a c.o.; or (b) registered conditionally for one year as a c.o. and required to comply with the training laid down in the next paragraph; or (c) entered in the military training register for non-combatant duties only. If the Tribunal considers that he has not made his case, he will be put, without qualification, on the military training register.

8. A c.o. of class (b) above shall undergo six months' continuous training "of a civil character and under civilian control for work of national importance." He will be paid, as nearly as possible, at the same rate as a militiaman (*i.e.* 1s. 6d. a day).

9. A c.o. in categories (b) or (c) of paragraph 7, who fails to comply with the orders of the Local Tribunal, even if he reaches the age of 21 meanwhile, will be brought before the Tribunal again; if he fails to appear he will be placed in category (c) forthwith.

10. "If any change occurs in the particulars furnished" by an applicant while he is conditionally registered (under para. 1) as a c.o., he must notify the Minister; failure to do this renders him liable to a £5 penalty. Those guilty under this paragraph may be transferred to section (c) on the military training register.

11. No one registered as a c.o. shall be called up for military duty; a man registered under section (c) can only be called upon to undertake non-combatant duty.

12. Deals with the Appellate Tribunal (of which there will be a separate one for Scotland), and the right of parties to appear in person or be represented by counsel, a solicitor, a trade union representative, or a relative or friend.

13. Deals with payment to members of Tribunals and travelling expenses, etc., to witnesses.

\* *Military Training Act, 1939*, published by H.M. Stationery Office, price 6d. Also *Regulations made by the Minister of Labour under the Military Training Act*, price 4d.

(In the *Regulations made by the Minister of Labour* Part VI shows the form of application to a Local Tribunal for registration as a c.o.; Part VII shows the form on which a c.o. appeals to the Appellate Tribunal against a decision of the Local Tribunal.)

### A Complex Issue

Experience, then, has taught us that this is a very complex issue, and the Act recognises this and seems to be making the best of a very difficult task. The fact that the proportion of conscientious objectors in the first batch of twenty-year-olds who have registered is very small—much smaller than many prophesied—has nothing whatever to do with the rights and wrongs of the case. Everyone of them is entitled in a democratic country to speak and be heard and to be dealt with by his fellow-citizens in the fairest way they can devise. The Tribunals before which they will state their case, or to which they will be able to appeal, are not military but civil courts (though it may well be argued that Court Martial procedure is as fair to the accused as anything known to our law). Even so we may be allowed to foresee how difficult it would often be for the members of a Tribunal, under the stress of “national emergency,” to deal patiently and dispassionately with applicants who stated their case badly or violently or perhaps refused to plead at all. We can only trust the inherent fairness of mind which is the common characteristic of a British jury. There will be no favour, there should be no fear.

The conscientious objectors themselves, divided for treatment into three classes by the Act, hold a wide variety of view—what may be called an ascending scale of “non-co-operation.” There are those (class *c* in the Act) ready to serve in the Forces but not to take life with their own hands, the non-combatants, eligible for branches like medical, supply or office work. There are men of class *b* (as we saw

in the last war, *e.g.*, the Friends Ambulance Units), who are ready to serve in the field, under the usual risks, but not in the Forces of the Crown. And there are men (class *a*) who refuse to have any part or lot in war, not in helping with supplies of any kind, not even in rescuing the wounded (which logically means the attempt to put a man, “reconditioned,” back into the firing-line).

The case of the Quakers ought to be the clearest of all, for the Society of Friends has been, above everything, “pacifist” for three hundred years. George Fox, the founder of the Society (who, oddly enough, was personally popular with soldiers) vehemently denied two, among others, of the *Thirty-nine Articles* of the Church of England—No. XXXVII which says that “it is lawful for Christian men, at the commandment of the magistrate, to wear weapons and serve in the wars,” and No. XXXIX which says that a man “may swear, when the magistrate requireth, in a cause of faith and charity.” And yet the case of the Friends, who may be called the typical conscientious objectors, is not so simple: I have known Quakers in all the three classes named above. I have read the names of combatants, alongside those who died doing works of mercy, on the War Memorial in a Quaker school—though such men must have been rare.

May I take an actual instance of the other two classes (both men are well known and I must not name them) from personal knowledge: they illustrate the difficulty of the c.o. and how, last time, it was dealt with. Both men stand out, in any company, for their moral courage, even for a certain dare-devil touch. The first (who has since suffered imprisonment in Germany for helping persecuted people) went abroad in a Friends Ambulance Unit and served with gallantry. At a certain stage in the war it was decreed that all men



serving with the troops in any capacity must attest *i.e.*, swear the ordinary soldier's oath of allegiance, and wear a prescribed khaki uniform (the F.A.U. uniform was Quaker grey). This man, following George Fox, refused to take any oath (his loyalty was never in doubt) or put on soldier's dress, and was court-martialled—for the first time, and sent home to prison. He was before court-martial at least twice later, and each time refused to take an oath but pleaded that he wished nothing so much as to be sent back to his stretcher-bearing at the front. This, by the regulations, was refused, and he wasted the rest of the War in prison in great distress, not because of the harsh treatment meted out to c.o. prisoners but because he was debarred from the dangerous duty he had chosen and could do well.

The second instance is of a man who took up the sternest attitude of non-cooperation. He was, of course, imprisoned "for duration." Soon after the War he came in touch with Toc H. Some of us were much beholden to him for a piece of outstanding pluck and endurance, most quietly done on our behalf, at an awkward moment on a mountain. In due course he applied for membership, and on the application form of those days, which had a space for "War services, if any," he wrote "Three years in prison as a conscientious objector." This was not any kind of bravado but, in his view, a plain statement of how he had served the truth by the witness of his conscience. I proposed him for membership, Tubby seconded. The Elections Committee (there was only one, in London, in those days) debated the case, the first of its kind, for a whole evening. "A c.o.—impossible! . . . A betrayal of the Elder Brethren . . ." Some fierce things were said by some members of the committee, who were all ex-service at that time: it was very hard "to think fairly."

(*It might be just as hard next time*). In the end he was elected, and to-day many members know his worth in Toc H.

#### What must Toc H do?

This brings us, I hope, to the practical issue of the moment. An article in the JOURNAL last month stressed the opportunity of Toc H to do things for the great majority of those now being called up, the militiamen, young civilians turned temporary soldier. What should Toc H do about the small minority, the conscientious objectors? I suggest that there are three things to be done: two are concerned with our attitude of mind, one with practical work.

1. We should all be honestly certain of our own belief that the c.o. is entitled to hold his opinion. This may sound very elementary, but some people, even among Toc H members, have not got as far as that yet.

2. We must get the whole business in the right proportion from the start. There is no need to talk sentimentally or vindictively either about the militiaman or the conscientious objector. Already in the public press both tendencies have appeared. Six months service is going to be neither a picnic, with the sergeant-major bringing up the morning cup of tea, nor a term of imprisonment, calculated to corrupt every mother's darling. The average militiaman is not going to be an example of "the brutal and licentious soldiery," nor the average c.o. a shirker, unworthy of citizen rights. In the training camps both the militiaman and the c.o. are going to have a strenuous time; all of them will be required to work hard, most of them, we have a right to expect, will work with keenness and with a good deal of satisfaction to themselves and value to the country. The point to be insisted on is that there should be no question either of

heroism or of unreasonable hardship for the young soldier or the young c.o. Both classes will consist of men under training "for work of national importance," and the only distinction between them is that they will be doing different parts of the same job.

3. Toc H, in whatever corner of the country a training camp for the militia is situated, will soon be busy discovering how it can help, not merely its own handful of members on service but all militia men who would welcome its friendship. Exactly the same principle should surely apply to the places in which conscientious objectors will do their training—with the added urgency that these places are likely to appeal much less to popular fancy and to attract less help from neighbours. Let there be no distinction at all in our job of fellowship and service. Both kinds of serving men are equally "commended to our friendship."

As to the sort of help Toc H can offer to the c.o., as to the militiaman, the article on *Serving the Militiaman* in last month's JOURNAL makes suggestions about what may be needed and possible. Only one point requires modification—where the article refers to the Secretaries for the Services (who are clearly only concerned with men in the armed forces) the Registrar, 47, Francis Street, S.W.1, should be substituted.

#### Positive Good

I want to end this article on a positive note—for it is regrettable that, all through history, the working of conscience among men is apt to take on a negative sound. The "protestant," the "conscientious objector," the "passive-resister," the "non-co-operator" all bear labels which imply that they are anti-something-bad, rather

than pro-something-good. The proposed way of dealing with the c.o. under the new Military Training Act may contain immense possibilities, if rightly used, pro-something-good. Let me borrow words from an article in *The Spectator* of June 2, which puts this point very well:—

The civilian training which is now to be given to conscientious objectors may do useful service in providing a model for future training for all citizens; the element of compulsion it will contain need be no greater or more burdensome than that which already exists in the educational system. But if such training is to be of real value, it must be designed to benefit, not the State in the abstract, but the individual, both directly, by the increased skill and capacity he will acquire, and indirectly, as a member of the community which will be enriched by the productive labour applied to tasks which private enterprise cannot undertake. Throughout the country, on the land, on the roads, in the towns, there are tasks to be carried out which demand the intervention of the Government; if in a future era of peace this country continues to apply "conscription," it is to such tasks that the "conscripts" will set their hands. Meanwhile, a beginning in this field can be made with conscientious objectors, if someone with constructive imagination can plan out for them work of practical value.

The writer goes on to instance the need for the preservation of the countryside, for drainage works and agricultural improvement; he quotes the successful community service of the Quakers at Brynmawr. "Training and discipline," he says, "have some value in themselves, both physical and mental. Snobbery can be dispelled, a sound social outlook inculcated, character built up, in the community which a civilian training camp constitutes." These results of compulsory service tally with the experience of the young Frenchman, during his time in the Army, who wrote in these pages last month. It may be that the c.o.'s among us will be able to regard themselves after all, not as a small, despised minority, but as among the pioneers of a happier future.

BARCLAY BARON.

## TUBBY'S TOUR

AS readers already know, Tubby, with Peter le Mesurier as his A.D.C., started out for a visit to India on January 9, from which they got home again on May 11. The generosity of Lord Wakefield made their tour possible, and he was himself on the platform at Euston to bid them Godspeed. They put to sea from Liverpool in H.M.S. *Liverpool*, a brand-new cruiser of 9,700 tons.

The travellers spent two busy days at GIBRALTAR. A Guestnight at Harington House was made remarkable by the presence of young Italian sailors from the training-ship *Vespucci*, for whose benefit Tubby said the Lord's Prayer and the Blessing in Latin at family prayers. Then they went on to MALTA and its Talbot House. During 'full-power trials' between Gib. and Malta the *Liverpool* developed engine trouble, and the travellers were faced with delay for repairs. The cruiser had been due to land them at Trincomalee, on the East coast of Ceylon, on February 13, and on this their Indian programme depended. They solved the difficulty by transferring to H.M.S. *Boadicea*, a destroyer, which took them to Alexandria. At Port Said they boarded the P. & O. *Strathallan* for Bombay. These events allowed them a brief, unexpected contact with Toc H in Egypt.

### Through India

On February 13 they stepped ashore at BOMBAY and the real business of their tour began. We cannot here follow it in all its detail, a good deal of which can be read in *The Lamp* of Toc H India (April and May issues). We must content ourselves with a few snatches.\*

After a busy six days with the three units in Bombay, they made tracks for the KOLAR GOLD FIELD. The temple of Tirupathi and other great Hindu buildings on the way (they drove 130 miles by road) roused Tubby's well-known archaeological passion, and if he had been given a spade he might be there still! At Kolar (where Peter, descending 8,900 feet to the bottom of the Oorgaom Mine, des-

cribed himself as "the lowest man in Asia") they had a Branch meeting and made many friends. Then on by train through a night of heat and dust to MADRAS. They stayed with the Bishop, a notable 'pillar' of Toc H, who threw a garden party for his guests. (A picture of this, with Tubby conversing with the Bishop and the Prime Minister, Mr. Rajagopal Chariar, appeared in the May JOURNAL on page 146.) A District Guest-night of the Madras Branch and the Vepery and Perambur Groups, with visiting members from Trichinopoly, Bangalore and Ootacamund, was held in the same room in which Toc H



Tubby, with Tommy Williams, at Tirupathi.

had started over fourteen years before, and gave Tubby the chance to hand the new Lamp, arrived that very day, to the representative of Ootacamund Branch. Tubby took a Parade Service twelve miles out of

\* The sketch-map of India in *The Linkmen*, Part I, July, 1938, shows the position of the Toc H units in India, and will serve to illustrate Tubby's tour as it did Bill Farthing's.

Madras, visited a Leper Settlement forty miles away and made many contacts with leaders in the Army and industry.

And so, after a crowded week-end, by steamer from Madras to CALCUTTA, three days at sea badly needed for rest and letter-writing. At Calcutta Tubby stayed at Mark I, Peter with the Branch Chairman, and both had plenty to do. From there they went on to AGRA, which meant not only "the Taj Mahal by moonlight" but two visits to the soldiers in the Cantonment; and then to DELHI, where Tubby was the guest of a local member, Rear-Admiral Fitzherbert, Commanding the Royal Indian Navy. Their time at Delhi was over-short and their programme was cut down to two events—a picnic at the Old Fort with local members, reinforced by visitors from Meerut, and a supper-meeting—"a red-letter day for the Group"—at which Tubby bestowed the Rushlight on the newly-founded Group and initiated four new members.

Then they travelled, by Ambala, to LAHORE, to attend the Group's Birthday Festival. Next day Tubby was rather unwell and unable to meet members at the Pilots' garden party, but he saw them again later on his return from the North-West Frontier.

#### On the Frontier

On March 12 a speck in the sky grew rapidly larger over Miranshah, descended to earth, and a plane disgorged Tubby, disguised as an airman (see June JOURNAL, p. 184). Major Coy (he spoke at the Eton College Rally—see page 223—three months later) was waiting to greet and guide him. That evening, being Sunday, Tubby preached in St. John's, PESHAWAR, and next morning, with Peter and Coy, headed for KOHAT. The day there was packed with engagements—a

visit to the R.A.F. Lines, an impromptu meeting with officers and men of the Signals, whom Tubby made to sing, a luncheon at the Deputy Commissioner's, a garden party at which he spoke finely for an hour to 250 guests—and he was so exhausted that his hostess put him to bed: that did not prevent



*Peter le Mesurier on the North-West Frontier.*

him from turning up later at the Group meeting in the evening.

The following days were just as full. On March 14, he saw some of the Frontier sights with the Deputy Commissioner of Kohat, Sheikh Khan Bahadur Mahbub Ali Khan, "a very lovable man," talked and lunched with the garrison at Thal Fort, sped on to HANGU to meet local members and friends at tea, and was back in PESHAWAR to dine with the King's Regiment.

On the 15th there were long-distance telephone conversations and a useful talk at lunch with the Governor of the North-West Frontier Province, Sir George Cunningham (see May JOURNAL, p. 146), and then a high-speed drive down the Grand Trunk Road to RAWALPINDI, where the travellers stayed until the 18th. This gave time for a meeting of the Group (the news of its promotion to Branch status actually arrived during Tubby's stay), visits to various Service units, and a



*Changing trains in the floods between Quetta and Karachi.*

trip with local members to the old ruins of Taxila.

#### *Last days in India*

And so to KARACHI, where there were soldiers in barracks to be visited and a public meeting to be held at Government House, where Tubby was staying as guest of Sir Lancelot Graham (see May JOURNAL, p. 146), an old schoolfellow. QUETTA was not in the itinerary as planned, but an appeal from the Group and a personal invitation from General Hutton, Commanding the District, brought Tubby along for the week-end of March 25-27. The journey there in the General's car was interesting if impeded, for a seasonal migration of the Bahuīs and Pathans occupied the road with its camels for forty-three miles! An informal meeting at the General's house, a sermon in church as unconventional (for Tubby had no clerical robes with him and preached in blazer and flannel bags), and a Guest-night—where the speaker was welcomed with *Rogerum* by the band of the Signals, fine supporters of Toc H—and a late visit to the old soldiers at the Ordnance Club made up a very full day.

Next day the travellers left, after a farewell talk, for Karachi again and the journey home. Their train was delayed in starting from 4 p.m. until 2 a.m. by great floods, and on the way down the pass they had to get out and walk along the precarious embankment from one train to another—among “what seemed like thousands of coolies, like a procession of ants.” The process took four hours.

#### *To the Persian Gulf and Home*

Nearly a fortnight late on their schedule, they set sail in S.S. *Vasna* on April 2 for Bahrain on the Persian Gulf, hoping to reach Abadan for Good Friday and Easter. Actually their plane from Bahrain to BASRA was late, so that they spent most of Good Friday in the air. After a night at Basra they went down river by the Oil Company's launch to ABADAN. They were now in “a country within a country,” the immense undertaking of an oilfield which employs 27,000 people, 2,000 of whom are British. There was no need here for the sort of Toc H campaign they had grown used to in India, for the community is catered for in all



respects by the Company, and there was a chance for the travellers to relax a little. Meanwhile they looked westwards rather anxiously: would "the balloon go up" in restless Europe before they got home?

On April 17 they were back in Basra, on the 20th they left on the night journey to BAGHDAD. In that neighbourhood they spent a few days with the R.A.F. at Habbaniyah and a night with them at Shaibar. And they enjoyed the lavish hospitality of the Oil Companies in turn: the Iraq Petroleum Company flew them to Quiara, where the British Oil Development Company took them over. This *rendezvous* had been chosen because Harry Moss, chaplain to the first of these Companies, also visits the men of the second, and in this quiet place, with the Tigris flowing by half a mile from the camp, they met him. It is a friendly place, with about sixty British and Americans in it. The 1,300 miles of pipe-line from Krakuk to Haifa, constantly disturbed by Arabs, needs and breeds tough men—but Harry Moss, who ministers to them, "wasn't a Regimental Sergeant-Major for nothing!"

The events of their time in Iraq would take too long to tell here. They included a luncheon party in the desert with the local Sheikh Naif, at which roast lamb had to be



One of Sheikh Naif's staff with P. B. C. and P. le M.

delicately dissected with the fingers and care to be taken not to admire their host's finery which, by Arab etiquette, he would then have been bound to give them. An amusing experience of one man, in the Iraqi Levies, who fell victim to Tubby and indigestion, will appear in our next number.

Then began the long trek westwards across Asia Minor, *en route* for Istanbul and Europe, of which we will leave Tubby himself to give some impressions. B. B.

## In the Taurus Express

### I.

This is the first night since we left Tower Hill, almost four months ago, that sleep has failed me. The mercy of good sleep nowadays so seldom leaves me, that I should be an ingrate to repine at one exception. It may be that my much-tried guardian angel is fearful of my literary creditors taking me by the throat when we reach London; and that my plan for "writing-steadily-for-a-clear-week-in-the-Taurus-Express" is (in the foresight of my inner mentor, who knows me all too well) the merest moonshine. Conscience or climate—for there's rain and thunder—have roused me thoroughly at 3 a.m., and since we leave this small Oil Camp betimes in order to see Nineveh before we take the mid-day train from Mosul, it is not worth

wooing the art of sleep, while the night fades into the birth of day.

I went to bed betimes. Midnight looked down on two old friends, with only one exception the oldest in Toc H, saying a final word of prayer together. Harry (or Padre Moss, D.C.M.) was reading when I called on him, and would insist of slipping out of bed to join in prayers of parting for a while. An hour before, the doctor of the Camp, together with our host, a Cornishman, had read the Lessons at our bed-time prayers, and then had taken Peter (Peter Le Mesurier) for an airing. Peter, by now, is going to leave a gap in the Camp's life, where in a single week he has attained the status of a sportsman. He has adorned the baths with fancy diving, and upon Sunday afternoon displayed



*Tubby and Harry Moss among the ruins of Assher, on the Tigris.*

uncanny prowess in that curious mixture of vigour and vivacity called baseball. The drillers here (as usual) are Americans, and hail from way down West in California. To them, 'at home' means Drake's Bay or (maybe) the Golden Gate itself of San Francisco. Long-limbed, hard-fibred, and—when roused by baseball—equipped with a technique of coloured jargon, they have accepted Peter as an asset, and are reluctant to lose sight of him. On Sunday evening, after baseball drew its non-existent stumps, some of the players proceeded to attend the Evening Service, held in the Club, and heard about Toc H; which has no foothold within California, except within the memories of drillers who have here known Harry Moss. Peter and Harry, sent to California, would soon set up the standard of Toc H; but dreams like this must now be stowed away, until the fate of Europe is decided.

To-morrow the last stage of these four months devoted to Toc H pursuits in India, Iran, Iraq, and in the ships on duty, begins with fifty miles of open handicap across odd *wadhis* lively after rain. May-day came in here with an ample substitute for meadow

dew. It thundered and it poured. The aeroplane on duty, none the less, has been here twice to-day, once from the North, once from Baghdad. The Pilot came to lunch, and took away a JOURNAL and a form of application for Toc H. If he decides upon this course of action, it will be largely for his brother's sake. His brother flew a year ago to sea, and no trace has been found, even by trawlers. When news came, the Pilot here arranged a quiet hour for his Communion at Harry's hands. He says this strengthened him; the brothers used to go as boys together. Now he proposes to adopt Toc H, though on his route from Baghdad up to Turkey there are few members and no form of meetings; but he will keep in touch as best he can. Organisation of Toc H Transjordan, Iraq, Iran is bound in my belief to wait until Toc H from home or from India can understand that three hard-pressed Chaplains cannot do more than they are doing now, at no small cost of unpaid strain, to help it. If Toc H means to stand and means to grow in Middle East, from Egypt to the Gulf, it must treat this vast complicated terrain as worth at least a single salary. Where there

are now less than a hundred members, there readily might be two thousand men, who would be glad to be roped into it. Men who are Christian, latently at least, are (at the lowest estimate) a serviceable minority. Masonry has its temples in all cities and many towns and camps in Middle East. Men on the spot know well what could be done; but letters from an unknown Home Headquarters cannot set up effective leadership. A man must come who knows what he is doing. Again this dream must halt for the time being. To-morrow, we pursue the Prophet Jonah, a portion of whose hypothetical whale is still on view in St. John's Church at Mosul. We entrain, endure until we cross by boat to Europe, halting upon its threshold at Stamboul. Thereafter, we get ready to be careful to learn to raise our arms at rigid angles, until we come to freedom and to France on May 10. Thence home to Tower Hill.

The dawn has broken through, leading the day. Although we are still by the Tigris here, it is not wholly fancy or desire which persuades me that a light breath of Europe can reach the exiles here. Below Kirkuk down to Baghdad, no breath of Europe stirs the stagnant heat, now reassuming sway. But here, within the cool clear peep of day, the man who goes upon his homeward way may well turn West and breathe a prayer for Peace, a white whisp in a cloud of intercession. For Europe cannot hope to live again, if war now comes. It is the end of Europe; only the winds of Europe will be free.

Men talk of peace and war extremely glibly, as if they were two taps relied upon conjointly or alternately for the right blend at history's discretion. We do not realise that war has now reverted to its origin. Its object is no longer military. Its object is destruction on a scale beyond description and the massacre of life without distinction of age or sex. Europe cannot recover within the lifetime of the youngest child surviving that immense catastrophe.

## II.

I'm seated in great state in a superb com-

partment, whereof—since yesterday—I am unworthily possessed. A smile from Peter (who does not speak Turkish) secured the same. He took my dog kennel. Never was man more blessed in junior partner. Thanks to the great white magic which foresees and settles and books ahead all needed reservations, we came with Harry Moss and the Camp doctor on Tuesday morning to the town of Mosul, two hours ahead of time but confident we could stack our kit—now much reduced—in our compartments, and see Nineveh, which is a 'Tell' of very dusty ruins across the bridge from the main Mosul town.

We soon were undeceived. Loud was the clamour about the train. The Germans and Italians, with very few exceptions, were departing. Nice fellows, too, upon the whole, they were; but some two dozen were no light addition to the short train upon a single line, as yet unballasted. Then, on the top of these returning conscripts, who had not been dismissed from their employment but summoned by their military law, a sudden order—we could but conjecture—arrived from Moscow for the Russian Minister in Baghdad to report home. The train was therefore full to overflowing. Peter's French name and formidable mien secured him still a single reservation; but clergymen could wait till Kingdom come. The Camp doctor flung himself into the fray, rehearsed the plagues which would beset Mosul if I should be deprived of my compartment, and threatened to ring up the British Embassy in Baghdad. This did the trick, and I was found a berth. But Nineveh, equipped with an old mosque, which was a Christian Church, with a whale's bone, remained unvisited. The prophet Jonah and myself thus differ; for he was forced to go there most reluctantly, and I—with much reluctance—was prevented.

As luck would have it (and it is most startling how the Lectionary of Lessons fits in with these journeys), Acts XV-XVI-XVII were provided for our first excursion through this delicious land of Asia Minor; where all day long you are in history. Confound it! I had not the least idea what could be seen,



yes, even from a train. The slowness of the journey gives you time, not to absorb, but at the least to sample, the rich blend of romance, classic and Christian, which make this route a rich experience.

Edessa on our right, whose King long treasured a letter, which was locally believed to be the one epistle of our Lord. Then Southward to Aleppo; after which we start to climb.

Simon Stylites hails us from his pillar upon the port of Kalaat, and beyond, towards the coast, lies Antioch itself, where 'Christian'—as a nickname—was invented. A butcher's boy in Londonderry is said to have been the very humble means whereby the Londonderry air was preserved. Our Faith received its name from some young street arabs. The title of Redemption was bestowed in ridicule.

Then to the North, the aspect of the country changes from sun-drenched plain to a vast network of mountain gorges; just a single track first breasts the Fevri Pass. Upon the seaboard lies Issus, where the fate of the

known world stood in debate, in 331 B.C. If there are any schools in England now, where classics are still read, I recommend a journey not to Greece, but to Asia Minor.

After the Fevri Pass, the train apparently felt that it needed something of a breather before it tackled the Cilician Gates. So we ran down—to my immense excitement, upon the line which has a *Tarsus* station. To my chagrin, a few miles short of Tarsus, the train recovered and addressed the hills; but when we halted on the Pass itself and (from a height I do not like to guess) looked down at the unutterable rift through which the West has passed, age after age, upon its road of conquest, Peter and I thought us of Taxila, the Greek City near Rawalpindi, whose chief citizens recalled these Gates as their first obstacle. When we are daunted by a step which seems too stern for us to take, we may be sure that, faced and overcome, it is intended as preparation for a supreme effort. The Conquerors' Gates—the curious defile leading from Turkey to North Syria—gave

Alexander's men the courage to carry the awful passes of Afghanistan.

All the next morning, we ran through high hills, tunnels galore, and finally emerged on meadow lands, where European dress among the men greeted our eyes as wanderers returned. The villages looked fairly self-complaisant, and the fat cattle were a sight to see. Turkey has taken a new lease of life, if this is typical of the whole kingdom. After Ancyra (spell it to your liking) we halted at the bustling town of Gordium; where Alexander cut, if I remember, a certain knot; a fact not to be mentioned at Gilwell Park, who don't let knots be knived. Then

our now lengthened train proceeded to the station of Nicæa, for ever now connected with a creed which is not that which underwent much subsequent revision. Then Nicomedia, with its tragic record, if memory serves me: but I'm very rusty, and have no guidebook to correct my ways.

Now, as I write, we are just well through Ismit, where Hannibal—whose gates had been the Alps—chose death against the prospect of a life in chains. Now in the dark we come to the Scutari shore, where a Lady with a Lamp brought hope to men of our own race and others.

TEBBY.

## UNEMPLOYMENT.—IV. Malnutrition

*The writer of this article has been given considerable assistance by a Toc H member who is a Physician and Surgeon in a Durham coal and iron town, the name of which is known the world over, and desires to make this acknowledgment of his indebtedness.*

**B**EFORE the social question can be answered it must be understood. Modern social life is too intricate an organism for careless experimentation. The more one considers the dimensions and complexity of the social question, the more a man becomes impressed with the necessity for a well considered plan of attack. A direct neck-or-nothing attack on our social ills may be like the Charge of Balaclava—"magnificent, but not war." The social question is not so much a problem to be solved, as a campaign to be organised, directed, and carried out. It seems a good time to pause, and consider the nature of the problem which underlies the facts of social agitation and discontent. We must see the thing not only as a whole but in its proportions and relations. To be up-and-doing is a popular slogan, to sit down and think and see, is not so. Yet, this is precisely what is needed. Doers of a sort there are in plenty, but where are the seers? Sympathy, sacrifice, and loyalty are all freely dedicated, but where are the qualities of knowledge, grasp, and insight? These qualities are necessary and worth

working for. If, as Keir Hardie was wont to say, "discontent without discernment is a grave hindrance and danger," so remedies without reflection may rather retard than help forward.

To break up, or take a thing apart is a sure way of getting to understand it. I once stood bemused looking at an internal combustion engine, and remarked to a mechanic who stood by, "I wish I understood this engine." His rejoinder was illuminating, "You never will, until you take one apart and put it together again." The Duke of Windsor when Prince of Wales asked us: "So far as is humanly possible to break the question of Unemployment up into little pieces, and refuse to be brow-beaten into paralysis by its size. The very attempt of the community to achieve some social betterment for the sake of the workless in their midst will lift the general level of hope, and make easier every attempt at national solution by statesmen and economists."

With that end in view, and by that method, I understand this series of short articles, each dealing with a bit or section



of the subject of Unemployment, has been planned. This one has to deal with what is commonly known as Malnutrition—that is malnutrition where and when found amongst unemployed men and women and their dependants—and plainly betokens hunger and need, and not the wrong feeding or malnutrition that rises from gluttony and unscientific diet, which to some extent is to be found amongst people in every walk and class of life. The king who died from over-eating lampreys was a victim of wrong feeding or malnutrition in that sense.

When I was a little boy it was easy to find men who could not read. They were to be pitied in that they never had the chance of learning to do so. For one short while I used to read the Sunday newspapers, and such things as *The Christian Herald*, the *Salvation Army War Cry* and *The Social Gazette*, to a few such men. I was rewarded with a penny now and then, and it may have made me a bit too smart for my age, but I have, up to now, never been sorry for the experience. What I am driving at is this. We seemed in those days somehow to expect each week to read of someone dying of starvation, and we were not at all perturbed about such happenings. They were expected as part of the contents of the papers we read. Only a few weeks ago I read of some such terrible thing happening in Hull, an occurrence that shocked the nation. That we were shocked proves that at least we have advanced in our value of, and our respect for, human beings.

Nevertheless, short of dying of starvation there are many kinds and ways of suffering that come under this omnibus term "Malnutrition." May we take a brief look at some of them.

The cause of Malnutrition—Poverty

The power which is itself spring and regulator in all efforts of Reform is the con-

viction that there is an infinite worthiness in man, and that all particular reforms are the removing of some impediment. Is it not the highest duty that man should be honoured in us? Poverty must be thought of in a purely personal way. I was struck, during the time that the Sankey Coal Commission was taking evidence, by the glibness with which millions of pounds were spoken of. For instance, coal-mining royalties, "way-leaves" and "dead" rents meant an annual sum of six million pounds. The question was asked, "Is it in the minds of the coal-miners that this huge sum should be transferred to their wages?" The answer was, "No!"

One of the reasons for the answer was that six million pounds divided between one-and-a-half million coal-miners would not very seriously affect their annual wage. Flinging figures in the mass about will not help very much if we are to understand how *intensely personal* poverty is.

Dr. Leslie Harris, speaking at a meeting of the Kensington Division of the British Medical Association on May 23 of this year, after illustrating the wide gap between the minimum diet which prevented the more obvious symptoms of deficiency and the optimum which promoted the maximum health, gave it as his considered conclusion that the evidence for inadequacy of diet of a wide-spread nature was established, and that the greatest single cause of malnutrition was poverty. Having declared the cause, let us attempt to look into malnutrition itself.

At the recent National Malnutrition Conference held in London towards the end of April of this year, General Sir Robert McCarrison (who was, until recently, directing nutrition research in India), said that nutrition was a fundamental function of the body on the efficiency of which health depended. Food, the chief though not the only instrument

of nutrition, was the paramount influence in determining man's physical enjoyment, powers of endurance, and resistance to disease; and a well constituted diet made up of fresh natural foodstuffs contained all things needful for normal nutrition so far as food was capable of supplying them.

The essentials of a well-balanced diet are to be found in whole-meal bread, butter, milk, fish, meat, fresh fruit and vegetables. The wife of an unemployed man has of necessity to buy in the cheapest market and a constant supply of fresh fruit and vegetables is impossible. They are treats for rare occasions. White bread and margarine may seem to satisfy hunger more than fruit and vegetables, and chipped potatoes may be very filling, but without the addition of milk, or fish, or meat, or vegetables, the nutritive value is sadly lacking. I remember an unemployed man in Bristol saying, "We give the kids corned mutton and spuds, it fills them, and that is about all." Professor S. J. Cowell, sketching recent laboratory work on animals, included the finding that hedgehogs became susceptible to foot-and-mouth disease when on an inadequate diet—an interesting and illuminating remark. One of the primary effects of malnutrition is the lowered resistance of the body to disease. From the mortality statistics issued by the Registrar-General for the year 1936, it can be noted as significant how excessive are the death-rates for the Areas of North Durham and Wales as compared with the more prosperous South-Eastern part of England. In the age group of 15-24 years, death from all causes in these distressed Areas was 53 per cent. more than for S.E. England, and deaths from Tuberculosis was 126 per cent. more. The population of the countries in the South-East chosen for this comparison was 5,616,940, while that of Wales, Northumberland, and Durham at the same rate was 4,739,150. These

figures speak for themselves, and the excessive death-rates in the Areas where unemployment is rife cannot be explained away on geographical grounds alone.

Anæmia is frequent, and this is particularly noticeable among the mothers who have to expend a great deal of energy, and who frequently deny themselves, perhaps unwisely, for the sake of the husband and children. Often their vitality is lowered by regular pregnancies. Other results are carious teeth, rickets and stunted growth; and poor physique becomes more noticeable when the child attains the age of 14 years. Children in such a condition are dull and apathetic, and usually suffer from enlarged tonsils and adenoids. More results than these mentioned could be presented, but this awful catalogue should be sufficient to convince any reader how terrible the results of malnutrition are upon the human body. We would, however, remark that one factor must not be lost sight of, namely that malnutrition is not a thing of a day or weeks, but a state that in the case of adults has lasted for years, and in the case of children all the days of their lives.

It is written, "Man shall not live by bread alone," and we would regret to give the impression that we are only concerned with the physical side of the lives of men. One other side of this malnutrition business, which for the want of a better term, I should style the psychological, should be stressed. May I quote Sir John Boyd Orr: "No one should be unaware of the psychological element in deficiencies. Its grossest manifestation is seen in *pellagra*, one of the results of which is insanity, and in *beriberi* which is accompanied by listlessness and lack of desire to live. The psychology of nutrition would be an interesting new line of research." This, stripped of technical language, is something that the ordinary man may observe any day in al-

most all unemployed people. They would not be prepared to discuss the matter in terms of psychology, but I have met cases where people were so fed-up (what a contradiction in terms!) that they could not muster enough enthusiasm and energy to attend Church or to even go to the new housing site to see the house they were to move into when their old one had been scheduled for demolition.

Poverty is the main cause of malnutrition, but there is a poverty not only of purse but of knowledge, and in fairness to our subject and all concerned, it must be mentioned. Said an old writer, "God may send a man good meat, but the devil may send an evil cook!" The art of good housekeeping on a small income is desperately difficult, and it is not merely the amount spent on food which counts, but what is bought, and how it is utilised. Are we wrong in saying that the young housewife of to-day does not possess that wise knowledge of spending and cooking which her mother and grandmother possessed? A facetious friend of mine once remarked that many young house-wives to-day get their countenance and sustenance at separate counters in the local chain-stores! We recognise the need and growth of the provision made by Educational Authorities in the supply of milk,

etc., and the work of the various clinics and so forth up and down the country, and do not decry the tendency of further State activity in this matter, but human beings live in their homes, and with that aspect of their life we are primarily now concerned. We therefore suggest that a three-fold line of advance is needed to deal with the sources from which malnutrition arises, namely, the provision of adequate spending power; the provision of knowledge of diet; and thirdly, that subtle something which is necessary to use the income wisely on the right food stuff, which might be styled good housekeeping. To quote Gilbert Talbot's father who wrote the introduction to the Archbishop's fifth Report, *Christianity and Industrial Problems*—"Let there be much study of this matter, for these things are our life."

We cannot get away from the truth of the words of the writer who said, "We have this treasure in earthen vessels." Malnutrition saps the body, dims the intellect, and scars the soul, and its effects go out beyond the suffering individuals, to reach into the years that are to come through the children that are yet unborn, if so be we recognise not the day and method of our salvation.

JIM BURFORD.

### What can we do?

WHAT can Toc H do about this vital factor in the distress and demoralisation caused by unemployment? Its first obvious duty is to try to understand what malnutrition means to an unemployed family, to study the problem as well as it can, to have it on its mind and conscience. But it can do more; it can do something in practical service, by direct action. Various members and units have concerned themselves with this for some time. We will take one good example of what a Toc H unit, even at a distance, can successfully carry out.

Some time ago Mr. Eddie Williams, Headmaster of Blaina Schools, Monmouthshire, and Chairman of the South Wales Children's Minimum Council, wrote as follows:—

The children of the Special Areas are of necessity underfed, poorly clad, badly shod. Until these conditions are remedied, physical fitness campaigns cannot succeed as well as they might. The children of these valleys of forgotten people do not know what real childhood means. They have no presents and no toys; they have neither a Sunday dinner nor Sunday clothes. They have never known what it means to have a real old-fashioned Christmas. Their homes are mere hovels . . . Last May, owing to lack of funds I had to discontinue our Free Milk Service.

Wanstead Group, in the Eastern London Area, got in touch with him and decided to do something about the last sentence—the supply of milk. They were sent lists of needy children from Blaina, their names, addresses and ages, and set to work to get each of these ‘adopted’ by someone to the extent of 2½d. a week, the price of a bottle of milk a day. And they try always to make this a personal affair, in which the ‘adopter’ sends at least a card to his or her ‘adoptee’ and, if possible, some small gift, a token that distressed Wales is not forgotten in prosperous London. This is what Mr. Eddie Williams says about it (in *The Head Teachers’ Review* of last month):—

Well, here are the facts. Only 24 out of the 274 scholars on my roll received free clinic milk, and only 14 out of the 216 on the infants’ registers. For years I have been paying for an additional 200 or more to have a third of a pint a day for a halfpenny under the milk-in-school scheme. I found that 2½d. per child per week was too great a burden for parents on the dole; and that abstention was not due to a distaste on the part of the child or parental indifference, as was proclaimed so often as an excuse in Parliament. Children and parents welcomed the milk when it was for nothing, and have been intensely grateful for it. Now, I am glad to say, members of Toc H Wanstead have guaranteed me the halfpennies per day for about a thousand necessitous children, and I am hoping this experiment will spread to other depressed areas. It is worthy of Toc H.

It may well be asked why this essential service is in such a case being done by private enterprise. The cost, at first sight, looks small. There are roughly 40 school weeks in

the year, so that milk for one child at school at 2½d. a week costs 8s. 6d. a year—not a difficult sum for many a Toc H member to find. The cost of providing school milk, however, to 500,000 necessitous children on this scale would amount to £200,000, and that would add very seriously to the liabilities of the Local Educational Authorities in South Wales, who are urged by the Board of Education to spend more on milk and meals for children in their schools. The burden of the rates on a depressed and dwindling population is already crushing. “Monmouthshire, for example” (writes Mr. Williams), “has to allocate £500,000 per annum, and Glamorganshire £1,250,000, for public relief and assistance. These are staggering figures. They are a third of the counties’ incomes.”

Until our country is enough awake to the tragedy of malnutrition and the other elements of unemployment to share out the resources of the richer areas to the poorer by some equalisation of the rates, there will be a challenge to private enterprise and ample scope for action like Wanstead’s.

The machinery of this ‘job’ is simple. A unit, having made contact with a village in a distressed area and received a list of its schoolchildren in need, makes up its panel of ‘adopters’ and puts them in touch with the particular children they are ‘adopting.’ The Jobmaster collects the contributions and forwards them to the village schoolmaster or other agent concerned with the scheme on the spot. This can be done. Who will do it?

## MY JOB—VII. The Agricultural Merchant

*This article is by a GENERAL MEMBER of Toc H who wishes to remain anonymous.*

**M**Y job is to exploit the vegetable kingdom on behalf of the animal kingdom. Producers of grain and oilseeds are scattered over the whole world: the list of goods in our warehouses makes a geography lesson of itself.

My job is to collect from a wide variety of sources and distribute economically the feeding stuffs required by stock (cattle, sheep, pigs, poultry and, to a lamentably

small degree nowadays, horses).

The country corn-merchant buys home-grown grain from the farmers and sells wheat to the flour millers, barley to maltsters, and everything else to other consumers, almost exclusively farmers nowadays. The labourer with his one sow, the townsman with his dozen fowls, and the gentleman with his carriage and pair are figures of the past. Even the gamekeepers

lessen, with the break-up of the big estates.

As everyone knows, crops vary enormously in quantity from year to year. Owing to various artificial inducements towards production, especially of wheat, there have been periodical gluts. The holding up of huge stocks of grain has temporarily steadied prices, and then there have been sensational collapses. On several occasions since 1918 prices have dropped by half in single seasons. Interspersed with gluts, there are periodical crop-failures which create an equally violent upward movement. This makes the living of a farmer and of a corn merchant very precarious, and we learn to exist in an atmosphere of big risks. This is a reason why so much speculation in grain has taken place in the past: with the coming of bulk-marketing by governments or by huge combines the speculative element should lessen somewhat. The successful corn merchant used to be the man who had a flair for buying cheap and selling on a rise, and probably this worked out tolerably fairly for the consumer. The tendency of the trade to-day is to become more of a regular service of goods, with a higher standard of quality and a more scientific blending owing to the new dietetic knowledge of animals' requirements, having in view meat, milk or eggs.

My job as a buyer is to obtain offers of imported feeding-stuffs or grain through brokers, who work for a commission varying from half to one per cent., paid by the shippers. Everything is paid for on or before arrival: but our buyers pay at very varying periods from one month to many months. Financing stocks and debts is a matter for constant watching.

Goods are delivered overside from ships into lighters or into brown-sailed coasting barges (growing steadily less) or into motor cargo boats varying from 200 to 400 tons. The railways are very little used in

this district as farmers have grown accustomed to having goods delivered right on to the farm by lorry, and they are only less exacting than housewives in expecting prompt delivery. There is abnormal competition for business, and a great deal of price-cutting, but as a rule we manage to keep our tempers and remain on quite cordial terms with our competitors.

We are, as a trade, much freer to do business in a haphazard way than most other commercial concerns, as anyone is at liberty to start, with no particular knowledge and make a temporary splash. Many of the leading firms, however, have a very long tradition, some having been in trade for a century.

Employees are kept for long years, many of them after their economic value is much diminished, and there is not the same ruthlessness in discharge which is seen in many large industrial concerns. By this I wish to imply that personal relations still count in the corn-trade to an extraordinary degree. The personal relation between salesman and farmer is also a strong factor in securing business. A friendly contact between manager and managed is half the secret of working successfully. And the moral of this tale is that we can establish and maintain all manner of healthy personal contacts, even in the midst of a system which seems in many ways undirected and absurd. We are not satisfied to continue in the ways of the past, but are working towards a system of (1) fair prices leading to more home-production; (2) payment for distribution as a service and not a gamble; (3) financing on cheap credit terms with solid backing; (4) encouragement to larger consumption by the general public.

If I can see something useful and orderly arising out of the confusion, and if I can maintain friendly and sane personal relations, my job is a man's job.



## THE HARROGATE CONFERENCE

*A Conference for members of the Central and Area Executives and of full-time Staff was held at Harrogate on May 19-22. Like its predecessor, held at Digswell Park, Herts., in 1938, its object was to give the volunteer leaders and the Staff of Toc H opportunity to meet together, to learn from each other and pool ideas, and generally to strengthen in all the sense of corporal and personal responsibility for the leadership of Toc H.*

**G**ENEROUS sunshine welcomed us to Harrogate. We were grateful for that: it had been so cold and dull before. The spacious, white streets and the gentle hills of Yorkshire added to our enjoyment.

The first evening was given to informal discussion. Much consideration was given to the new job facing Toc H in the Military Training Act: how can Toc H best serve both the militiamen and the conscripted conscientious objector?

\* \* \* \*

On Saturday the conference was at full strength. ARTHUR EDGAR opened the morning session with a review of the working of



*Arthur Edgar and Howard Dunnell take it seriously.*

the Toc H nervous system: how far can we tighten up our efficiency and accuracy without losing elasticity? Referring, as an example, to the Team System, he asked how far this could be considered the best machinery, faced as it was with the monthly or (in the case of Area Executive) quarterly delay be-

tween decision and consequent action. Should Area or District Sub-committees be given power to act? (It was remarked by some present that, in their Area, such sub-committees did have power to act.) Criticism was made here of the haphazard manner in which Unit representatives were often elected to the Teams—because they had no special job to do in the unit, or held no other office, or happened to be free that night, or to possess a car. It was agreed that only the very best men should go on to the Team.

\* \* \* \*

DINWIDDIE led the afternoon session dealing with the question: "Has Toc H a sure hold on the principle of life that the world needs?" He described how, in broadcasting, to help achieve true reproduction, there was a department called 'Balance and Control'—a department staffed by men with knowledge, training and experience. Now while it is true that behind the world's uproar there is Divine control there is also—by the very nature of life—a Divinely-permitted human control. This, too, must work for true reproduction of the Divine Will. This, too, needs men of knowledge, training and experience. Dinwiddie told us a story of how General Chiang kai Shek surrounded and burned down a Christian mission station and how the Christian missionary in charge, with the ruin of a life's work all around him, offered to accompany Chiang kai Shek's troops that he might help the wounded. The missionary offered to go that second mile, and through him the love, which is the Love of Christ, conquered: Chiang kai Shek was baptised. So, as St. Ignatius of Loyola has taught thousands of Christians to pray, we are "to give and not to count the cost."

JIM BROWN spoke next of Toc H as a Christian movement and of how the realisation of that fact should be the basis of all our think-

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JULY, 1939

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Overseas Office: 42, Trinity Square, London, E.C.3. (Royal 3817).

## Marks and other Houses :

### MARK :

I. —24, Pembridge Gardens, W.2. (Bay. 5400).

II. —123, St. George's Sq., S.W.1. (Vic. 9627).

III. —Church Cres., S. Hackney, E.9 (Amh.1949).

IV. —Upper Park Road, Victoria Park, Manchester, 14. (Rusholme 2758).

V. —The Firs, Bassett, Southampton. (Bassett 681071).

VI. —6, Wake Green Road, Moseley, Birmingham, 13. (South 0565).

VII. —15, Fitzroy Square, W.1. (Euston 2927).

VIII.—Christ Church Road, Pitsmoor, Sheffield. (205111).

IX. —31, St. Paul's Road, Clifton, Bristol, S. (357181).

X. —Westbourne House, Princes Avenue, Hull. (8135).

XI. —44, Princess Road, Leicester. (224011).

XIII.—The Brothers' House, 119, Kennington Park Road, S.E.11. (Reliance 1005).

XIV.—1, Eccles Old Road, Salford, 6. (Pendleton 2134).

Talbot House Club for Seafaring Boys (Warden: J. H. Clark), Brunswick Square, Southampton. (520611).

"THE OLD HOUSE"—Talbot House, Rue de l'Hopital, Poperinghe, Belgium.

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„ II (C).—614, Huron Street, Toronto, 5.

„ I (I).—2/2, Lansdowne Road, Calcutta.

„ I (S. Am.).—Chacabuco, 723, Buenos Aires.  
Harrington House, Gibraltar.

### MARK :

XV. —31, The Common, Woolwich, S.E.18. (Woolwich 0977).

XVI. —Redville, High Street, Swindon. (257).

XVIII.—Grainger Park Road, Newcastle-upon-Tyne, 4. (330041).

XIX. —East Street, Leeds, 9. (239871).

XX. —67, Upper Richmond Road, S.W.15. (Putney 3976).

XXI. —Graeme House, 228, Osmaston Road, Derby. (2635).

XXII. —95, Denmark Hill, S.E.5. (Rod. 5137).

XXIII.—Brotherton House, North Grange Road, Leeds, 6. (521021).

Gladstone House, 62, Rodney Street, Liverpool, 1. (Royal 1070).

Shaftesbury Lodge, 20, Poole Road, Bournemouth. (Bournemouth 149).

Pierhead House, Wapping, E.1. (Royal 3611).

MARK I (Aust.).—Edward House, Brunswick Rd., Albany, Western Australia.

„ I (S. Af.).—30, Saratoga Avenue, Johannesburg.

Talbot House, 39, Mrabat Street, Sliema, Malta.

## The Areas of Toc H

The Half-yearly List, showing DISTRICTS, BRANCHES AND GROUPS, is published with the April (Annual Report) and November Journals.

Communications for DISTRICT, BRANCH AND GROUP SECRETARIES should be addressed c/o THE AREA SECRETARY concerned.

Where omitted in the following pages, the address of the AREA PADRE is the same as that of the Area Secretary.

H.A.C. = Hon. Area Commissioner.

A.S. = Area Secretary.

H.A.S. = Hon. Area Secretary.

A.P. = Area Padre.

### Areas in the British Isles

- LONDON AREAS : Office Secretary: F. G. Harrison, 47, Francis Street, S.W.1. Marks Padres: Revs. G. W. S. Harmer ("Oswin Creighton" Chaplain), L. Vincent-Daviss and D. A. V. Worth ("Sibell Mary Grosvenor" Chaplain).
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- THE CHILTERN AREA : Area Pilot: A. M. Cowling, 47, Francis Street, S.W.1. Hon. Padre: Rev. G. Williams.
- EAST ANGLIAN AREA : Hon. Sec., Area Executive: A. Fuller, 47, Orchard Avenue, Cambridge.
- EAST MIDLANDS AREA : A.S.: J. W. Maddock, Toc H Mark XI, 44, Princess Road, Leicester. (224011). Rev. D. Ford ("Murray-Smith" Chaplain).
- NOTTS. AND DERBY AREA : A.P.: Rev. P. W. Webb, Toc H Mark XXI, 228, Osmaston Rd., Derby. (2635).
- WEST MIDLANDS AREA : A.S.: C. Stevenson, Toc H, 6, Wake Green Road, Birmingham, 13. (South 0545). Padre: Rev. B. N. Downing ("Herbert Fleming" Chaplain).
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- Shropshire County : Secretary: W. J. Abbott, 81, Brook Lane, Newton, Chester. Worcestershire County : Secretary: C. Stevenson, Toc H, 6, Wake Green Road, Birmingham, 13.
- NORTH WALES DIVISION : Sec.: W. J. Abbott, 81, Brook Lane, Newton, Chester. Hon. Padre: Rev. A. Thackray, King George Street, Shotton, Chester.
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- WINNIPEG AREA :** *Hon. Registrar:* H. B. Shaw, Toc H Mark I (C.), 178, Colony St., Winnipeg.
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- INDIA AND BURMA—ALL INDIA COMMITTEE :** *Hon. Secretary:* K. R. Fergie, Toc H Mark I (I.), 2/2, Lansdowne Road, Calcutta.
- LONE UNITS COMMITTEE :** *Hon. Sec.:* H. R. Corlett, address as above.
- SOUTHERN INDIA REGION :** *Hon. Sec.:* S. G. H. Davis, c/o Parry & Co., Ltd., P.O. Box 12, Madras.
- AUSTRALIA—Hon. Australian Commissioner:** Lt.-Col. E. F. Herring, K.C. *Secretary to Australian Executive:* B. A. Billings, c/o Toc H, 476, Collins Street, Melbourne, C.I.
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- SOUTH AUSTRALIA AREA :** *H.A.C.:* J. Howard Burgess. *A.S.:* J. G. Turvey, Box 1202 K, G.P.O., Adelaide. (C. 7577).
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- VICTORIA AREA :** *H.A.C.:* J. T. Vinton Smith. *A.S.:* H. E. Howes, Toc H, 476, Collins Street, Melbourne, C.I. (MU 4121).
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- RHODESIA :** *Org. Sec.:* N. F. High, P.O. Box 834, Bulawayo.
- TRANSVAAL AND ORANGE FREE STATE :** *H.A.S.:* H. Winfrey, P.O. Box 3624, Johannesburg.
- LONE UNITS OVERSEAS :** *Addresses of Secretaries of Regional Executives, Branches and Groups in the following places are given in the Half-yearly List issued with the April and November Journals:* ADEN, AFRICA (EAST, CENTRAL AND WEST), BRAZIL, CEYLON, CHILE, EGYPT, FAR EAST, MALAYA, MAURITIUS, MEDITERRANEAN, NEAR AND MIDDLE EAST, NORTHERN EUROPE AND WEST INDIES.
- THE SERVICES :** *Addresses of Secretaries and Correspondents in THE NAVY, ARMY AND AIR FORCE are given in the Half-yearly List issued with the April and November Journals.*

## Toc H League of Women Helpers

*Founder Pilot:* Miss A. B. S. Macfie. *Hon. Treasurer:* Mrs. Edmund Horne. *Regional and Travelling Staff:* Miss G. Bolton (Southern), Miss F. Brooks (Pilot), Miss K. M. Lawley (Eastern), Miss A. L. Petherbridge (North Western), Miss M. Phillips (West Midlands), Miss E. M. Thomas (North Eastern), Miss P. W. Wolfe (London and Home Counties), Miss E. C. Porter (Southern Africa). *General Secretary:* Miss Helen Benbow. *Acting General Secretary:* Miss E. Hildesley, L.W.H. Crutched Friars House, London, E.C.3. (Royal 5586).



ing about it. We are so to live as to show that God is in it and that we are His.

If there is a method at all of finding the Principle, said GRANGER, it is that we should listen, know and do. But, he went on, we are not doing enough listening. HARRY WILLINK, the Chairman, said how intensely difficult prayer is and how we need to *learn* to pray. He asked that our padres might do all in their power to teach and train the laity in prayer.

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The Conference was next concerned with the methods which we use to demonstrate the principle. Is the weekly meeting enough? The very name, said IAN FRASER, is a pathetic commentary on its sufficiency. Men should come together by the sheer compulsion of fellowship and not as some second-rate literary and debating society, catering for 'entertainment-value' lest men stay away. He asked us to try to create small groups of men, small 'cells' far nearer to the true family strength. Over two dozen ceased to be a family; under about eight lacked sufficient variety. He suggested that Toc H might learn much from the Communist 'cell-groups,' who come together as a family comes together—to discuss family concerns, groups which demand absolute allegiance, a high quality of personal life and a real understanding of the principles by which we live and their application to daily life. Let us aim at a greater variety of meetings, at programmes built up by thinking together about our mutual concerns. And if we are to think, we must first *know* some things—must know the real limits of the experience of our personnel and what is the next step to take. We must begin at the end of everyday life. For example, if we are to think and talk about money, we must talk of the actual handling of it by the men to whom we are talking—not of abstract finance. Or, if we would explain the Main Resolution, let us do so in terms of a human life—in terms, for example, of the life of Dr. Albert Schweitzer. What a contrast with this true and human approach, is our general attitude to Adolf Hitler—an attitude built up on

ignorance and vulgar propaganda! How, on such a shallow, flimsy basis, can we ever hope to understand the German people and learn to co-operate with them?

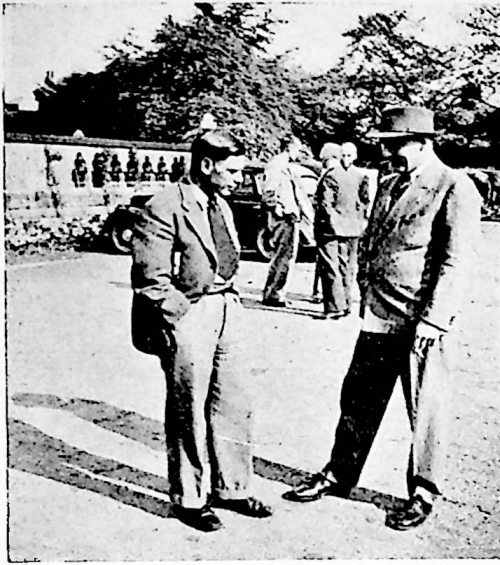
Padre DAVIS recommended, as a simple help along the lines indicated by Ian Fraser, that we read the literature published by The Young Christian Workers or "Jocists," a junior branch of Catholic Action with its English Headquarters in Wigan.

After this, some half-dozen members, from units as varied as Edinburgh, Liverpool, Huddersfield, Nottingham, Newcastle, Manchester, carried on the discussion.

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TATTERSALL led the next session on the subject of recruiting in relation to the needs of to-day. He posed the question "Young men ask for constructive adventure: can we supply it?" The test of whether an event is adventurous or not, Tat began, lies in the attitude of the person rather than in the event. One of the most precious things we can give to youth is to help them to see humble things as adventurous; to be so alive, so interested, that they are able to look at all things in an adventurous way. On the whole, he continued, there is nothing wrong with our members or with our jobs. Yet, while the contemporary Work-camps can recruit 2,000 boys a year, Toc H gets less than one-fifth of that number. "Why?" asked Tat, and went on to answer: "We conduct so many wrong activities in a wrong way. Our Guest-nights—perhaps once they were used to attract, to-day they are useful only to repel—our Guest-nights with their strange, unreal ceremonies and their so often artificial prayers, and our unctuousness and our outdated jokes in dusty frames. I suggest that we remove all this valueless superfluity and get down to the guts of the thing and offer these boys Toc H and not 'Talk-H.' It is not for nothing that the Devil, in Mediæval art, is represented with a protruding tongue!"

CHARLIE WALMSLEY of Manchester followed. We frame jobs, he said, round our members and not members round the jobs which need the doing; we often fail to study



Michael Coleman and Harry Willink.

the *real* needs of the community in which we live.

As an example of an adventurous job of work being done at present in Nottingham, HARDACRE told us how the local members had rented a large, old house and, after cleaning and decorating it, had opened it as a lunch-club for young business-men, providing a dining-room, a games room, reading-room, table-tennis-room and, for the summer months, games in the garden. Some forty to fifty men a day were now regularly using it. L.W.H. also came in on the adventure and used it for domestic servants. And it was open on a Sunday.

Padre MICHAEL COLEMAN reminded us how much adventure was linked up with God's gift of imagination. Our Lord had that gift of imagination supremely and He used it constantly. The Gospel story is one full of imagination, and yet there are no trimmings there and nothing that is not essential. Toc H is for *all* men—and every man is someone charming and delightful and an adventure to meet. Jesus made friends with people first and *then* helped them: people just couldn't keep away from Him—even the ones who disliked Him. Youngsters will

come into our units if they see that they are groups of men with real imagination enjoying life together.

\* \* \* \*

Speaking next of the working out of the principles of Toc H, W. E. WOODS said that three main ideas stuck with him about Toc H. First, that Toc H is an organism rather than an organisation; next, that it is a life to be lived and that, in the living of that life, men will find themselves; third, that Toc H should be more concerned with the inside of people than the outside of things. The function of Toc H, he continued, is to be a University of Character, and men once trained to graduate in the principles for which we stand should be passed out of Toc H into the service of the community. We are failing, he said, to release enough men for this specialist work.

LESLIE WOOD asked here why it is that this 'University of Character' so rarely attracts the artist, the contemplative man and the wanderer? Is it true that this freedom, this 'unification of personality,' this discovering of the Spirit of God within ourselves, is found *only* in mutual service?

"We talk of ourselves as a society which sees behind the ebb and flow of things temporal, the Eternal Realities," said Padre Jim Davies, "yet the scope of the thing and its magnitude eludes us. We talk so much unreality. So much of our talk of service is artificial. We are to give service not so much *to* or *in* the community—but service which *makes for* community. This will lead us to political action. We own to being 'religious': equally must we be 'politicians.' To-day we are forced to note affairs outside our own parochial boundaries and much merely formal religion won't take the strain. Consequently, we feel Christianity drained of its reality. But Christianity *is* expressing itself through this very unrest and is itself the cause of it. Society is being re-made. True political action is, then, helping in this re-making. We could redeem politics from the charge of being 'a dirty game.' Politics is the highest game: it is the game of reconciliation between man and man."

"What are we to take back to our units from this conference?" JIM BROWN asked us. "The front line of experiment and experience is where you and I are going tomorrow. After this experience together, Toc H cannot be left as it has been. There are new opportunities which, if not taken, will be given to others to take. Don't worry if we are not making any cataclysmic changes in the circumstances around us. What matters far more is that we should be making a



A good story?

change in ourselves and not just drifting through life. Toc H has its contribution to make in *thinking* straight about things. The unemployment problem, for example, means understanding what unemployment really means to somebody else. Thus can we help to change public opinion."

IAN FRASER gave us a grand quotation here from Mallory, who after his great conquest of Everest, said: "Have we conquered an enemy? None but ourselves. Have we found success? That word means nothing here. To struggle and to understand, never the last without the first—such is the Law."

"We here hold responsible positions of leadership," Padre BOBS FORD concluded, "and we are to go back and do something about it. We *have* got the means to hand—a fellowship of men to go back to, a bunch

of friends ready for action. With those friends we can act."

### Sunday: A Guest-Night

The Harrogate season—a smart one—had started and the Harlow Manor Hotel was quite busy, apart from the three-score and ten members of Toc H. So many questions were asked as to who and what we were and if so, why—that we decided to answer those questions. On the Sunday evening we arranged a Toc H Guest-night. Notice of this was posted on the doors of the dining-room and elsewhere. It was to be a "mixed" Guest-night. It was held in the hotel ball-room.

The majority of the hotel guests turned up. HOWARD DUNNETT was the leader for the evening. He introduced to the guests first, General Sir REGINALD May, who told us the story of the Old House; then Padre BOBS FORD, who told of the immediately post-war years; then REG SMITH, who described the life and purpose of our Marks. Then HOWARD DUNNETT to speak of the overseas work of Toc H. After that, a break for community singing, conducted by LESLIE WOOD. The guests loved it; it was the talk of the hotel for days afterwards. Mercifully we were spared, under Leslie's leadership, from topical allusions to Ilkley Moor and headgear; he taught us some old English rounds. Some of us had never heard a company of people sing so well.

After that everyone got up and shook hands with their next-door neighbours. The atmosphere became more free and easy and we felt that we were all friends with each other.

CHARLIE YOUNG was the next speaker, telling of Toc H in relation to industry. Then young DAVID STEPHENS from Birmingham spoke of the future of Toc H and of Toc H from the young member's point of view.

And so having met our brothers, our friends, and our neighbours, we parted to return enriched to our homes, mills, warehouses and offices, more ready to relate all this to life as it is lived in the North of England to-day.

S. L. D.

# A LONG VIEW OF THE CRISIS

*Some reflections by* GEOFFREY JOHNSON *(North Western Area Secretary).*

CLEAR thinking is not particularly easy at the best of times, and in these days, when we are faced with issues as fundamental as they are frightening, the man in the street is apt to shrug his shoulders and to give up any attempt at understanding the current drama of events as it unfolds itself before his eyes. And yet we know there is an obligation on us all to try and understand not only the present complex international situation, but, what is equally important, something of the wider issues which lie behind the details of the crisis. It should be possible for citizens of a country which permits freedom of thought and discussion to arrive at some degree of understanding, and this is an attempt by one who is conscious of his very limited knowledge of current happenings and also of history, to outline these issues in the perspective in which he sees them. It is surely most important that men should reach personal conviction and opinion on these vital matters, and such conviction can only come as a result of clear thinking and an ability to see events as far as possible in true perspective and in relationship to each other. No attempt is made to take the subject beyond its political aspect, although it must be admitted that the root causes of the present crisis have economic, religious and personal implications.

It is essential that one should take the long view and realize that what we are witnessing in the world to-day is a direct result of what has happened in the past—that if we are to understand the significance of current events and what is likely to happen in the future, we must be able to look back into history and see for ourselves how the present condition has come about. Only by taking the widest possible view of the gradual development of the

human communities, which we label nations, is it possible to appreciate fully the fundamental issues which are once again facing humanity.

## The History of Human Society

Fortunately the broad facts of history are incontrovertible and the lines on which human society has developed through the ages are generally agreed upon, whatever significance they may or may not have on present-day affairs. Let us remind ourselves of how in general that development has proceeded. Many centuries ago man, emerging from the jungle and the cave, with dawning social consciousness formed his first unit of society, the family home. As his intelligence increased, he began to realize the advantages and comfort to be obtained by the combination of several families into a larger community. Greater security from enemies, and greater comfort and prosperity as a result of increased specialisation led to the formation of tribal life. As we know, this form of primitive community has continued in various parts of the earth right up to the present day; whilst, in other places, tribes progressed, developed into the city state and the beginnings of nationhood. Throughout the centuries this process has gone on with the sovereign unit of society tending to get ever larger and more powerful—a process in which the only law between communities has been the law of the survival of the fittest and in which peoples and nations have arisen and built up their civilisations, only to be conquered and assimilated by invaders who in their turn were to meet a similar fate.

This state of affairs has continued in essence right up to the present day. Although there have been periods of com-

parative peace and tranquillity, these have only occurred when one race has been able to impose its control over a far wider field than its own home-land or when a precarious balance of power has been established and maintained. Are we therefore to assume that the same process, of the rise and decline of nations, of the domination of the strongest, and of unrestricted national sovereignty, is likely to continue whilst civilisation lasts? The writer believes not, for reasons which he will try to outline. He believes that, despite the present breakdown of international law and confidence, mankind is moving surely and inevitably towards the establishment of a world-order.

### The Conquest of Space

Perhaps the main reason that will compel men to set their international relationships within a framework of law lies in the ever increasing discoveries of science. Everyone realises that the conquest of space has bound together the peoples of the earth as never before, but not everyone grasps the significance of this revolution on international affairs. Until the rise of Western civilisation and its subsequent world spread as a result of invention, earlier civilisations were isolated from each other. The Persian, Egyptian, Greek and Roman in the Old World, and the Aztec, Mayan and Inca in the New World, all flourished in their various ways and then declined, but did so without affecting to any great extent the state of affairs outside their particular zones of influence. But with the rise of Western civilisation a change has taken place which has vitally changed the situation. Scientific invention and improved communication have led to an immense increase in international trade; despite inequalities the standard of living has risen immeasurably throughout the world, and as a result the economic cords which bind

the nations together have become stronger and stronger. Economically, scientifically, and rationally, the world is for the first time one unit.

### The Growth of Ordered Government

The second factor which makes for progress towards an international order lies in the extension of ordered government throughout the world. Whilst the world consisted of powerful communities in some places and primitive societies in others, as was the case until the last century, the establishment of a comprehensive world-order was impossible. But that state of affairs is now a thing of the past, and practically the whole of the globe is now administered directly or indirectly by organised sovereign states. The development and political control of backward peoples by more advanced nations has brought many evils in its train, but it is difficult to imagine the possibility of a world order being produced without the imperialistic phase having taken place. The approaching end of imperialism in its old sense has been foreshadowed in the creation of the mandate system, and, as world political stabilisation advances, that system of colonial administration is likely to take on an international aspect.

Bearing in mind how ordered government is gradually being established over the whole globe, we must realise the effect of that fact on the minds and habits of men as a whole. It is reasonable to assume that as time goes on, men are becoming more law abiding and more accustomed to disciplining themselves to the necessary restrictions involved in the maintenance of society. Although allegiance to law is as yet only within national boundaries, nevertheless the fact that the rule of law is now established firmly within most nations renders its international application possible. Every community, large or small,



constructs its social and legal framework on the basis of its past experience or that of other nations, and in the light of fresh experience modifies and adapts it to meet changing circumstances. Thus, despite all appearances to the contrary to-day, man is gradually learning the art of controlling the social structures he creates and the wealth of his experience inevitably becomes the common wealth of all.

#### The Interdependence of Nations

The next point to consider is perhaps a negative one, but one which nevertheless is extremely important at the present time. International relationships are now so complex, the economic interdependence of peoples so interwoven, that a severance of those ties through war must lead in the long run to the collapse and disruption of those states most closely concerned. There can be no doubt that the realisation of this fact acts as a great deterrent to war at the moment. Although we may curse the cleverness of man in the production of such elaborate means of destruction as the bombing plane, yet we can console ourselves with the fact that the very existence of these implements acts as a deterrent to possible aggressors when they consider the unavoidable repercussions on themselves. Furthermore the revolt of the civilised man's conscience against the crime and wastage of war and against the present chaotic state of affairs is one of the most hopeful signs of the times. Inevitably men who have come to learn the value of living within the framework of stable law-abiding society are beginning to demand that their rulers should extend the same system to international affairs. The tendency on the part of thoughtful individuals to think in terms of humanity rather than purely in terms of nationality is one that is likely to increase, despite the glaring examples to the contrary at the present time.

If what has been written above is accepted as a true indication of how human society has gradually developed, it is not difficult to understand the real nature of the present crisis.

#### A Parallel from the Middle Ages

There is a parallel between the present international situation and the situation in this country in the Middle Ages, when the Crown was attempting to establish complete sovereignty over the land. It was natural at that time that the elements supporting the establishment of a central authority were mainly some of the very rich and powerful nobles, merchants and others engaged in peaceable tasks, and the common people. These classes had everything to gain by the avoidance of civil war. Many of the leading nobles possessed as much as they could reasonably hope to acquire, and the lesser men wanted peace and order because they stood to lose in any case in the event of war. The parties who were reluctant to accept an over-riding sovereignty were naturally those who hoped to profit by the continuance of a lawless state of affairs and whose strength was sufficiently great to justify their hopes that considerable gains were possible by the use of force.

If we compare that situation with that of the world to-day we shall not be surprised when we see various States trying to "cash in" on the territory-grabbing method whilst the going is good. They are in precisely the same position as the dissatisfied barons in the middle ages. For varying reasons Germany, Italy, and Japan all emerged as World powers late in the day when the process of world political stabilisation was well advanced. It is not surprising therefore that there is extreme reluctance on their part to accept any curtailment to their ambitions, nor is it surprising that they should combine in an

attempt to attain their ambitions. For such an attempt to be successful does require concerted action and unity on the part of the attackers. Despite a rather complex situation and the existence of the subsidiary issues (such as the clash of rival ideologies), the situation is fundamentally one of nationalism *versus* internationalism. Whether the hurried mobilisation of the Great Powers and small states (the very rich and the poor) in the Peace Front is successful is another question. The main factor to be borne in mind is that we are watching a conflict between the forces making for international stability and law and those states which do not wish to see the establishment of world order, at any rate until such time as they have improved their own positions. As has already been said, the vital issue is not really between two rival systems of government, democracy and totalitarianism, but, with all due fairness to our potential enemies, whether individual states shall be allowed to impose their will on other sovereign states. Totalitarianism is purely a means to an end—the end being the mobilization of the greatest possible national power.

#### The Establishment of International Law

The actual position to-day will resolve itself in one of three ways. The present diplomatic war without actual hostilities may be continued indefinitely with the crucial issue postponed; or the Axis powers may decide to risk the consequences and, either by dividing their opponents or by quick use of terrific force, assert their mastery; or finally, they may decide to take a chance and lose as a result. It is impossible to know at the present time which course will be taken, but, despite many adverse circumstances, it would appear that time is on the side of the protectors of the *status quo*. It is in the interests of the large majority of states, great and small,

that any attempt at aggression should be successfully resisted and the organisation of that resistance is likely to grow.

The writer for one cannot accept the position of the complete pacifist. He believes that law must be established between nations as it has been within nations; that the sanction of law, the power to enforce it, is as vital a necessity internationally as it is nationally. The goal which must eventually be achieved is the establishment of an international authority, with sufficient means at its disposal to ensure that that authority is not challenged or, if it is challenged, that there is an overwhelming force available to defeat the aggressor.

An international institution with these powers would be in the same position as most sovereign states to-day, in which law and order are unchallenged because of the strength of public opinion and because the community possesses overwhelming resources to ensure their maintenance.

It is not the purpose of this article to deal with the attempts that have been made in the past to subject international affairs to a system of law, or to forecast the nature of the experiments which will doubtless be made in the future. Immense difficulties are involved, and the fact that the first great experiment, the League of Nations, has partially failed need not cause us to despair. The authority of a central body has never been accepted without challenge, and we would do well to bear in mind that it took the English Parliament several hundred years to establish finally its control over the realm. The serious mistakes made by the League of Nations will be a benefit when the next step is taken in the establishment of international law. Peace may have to be imposed in the first place by a limited number of powers forming a solid block, foregoing their sovereign independence in international affairs, and pooling their armed forces. It was H. G.

Wells who first suggested that world peace could be established by the fusion of the American and British Foreign Offices. On the other hand, a reconstructed League of Nations may be created that will include all states. A possible solution might lie in a scheme for dividing the world into zones, each state being bound to a system of collective security only within the zone in which it was placed. This might meet the natural objection of States to undertaking action commitments in parts of the world where they have no interests or authority.

Only one thing is certain and that is that complete national sovereignty is incompatible with world-civilisation to-day, and that in one form or another it will have to be limited in so far as international relationships are concerned. Had all the leading states of the world been prepared to trust each other and accept a limitation of their sovereignty in the past, the present crisis could not have arisen.

One further point should be made—no international body such as the League of Nations can hope to succeed unless the broad settlement between nations on which it is based has been made in a spirit of impartial justice and objectivity. The greatest weakness of the League of Nations, which has been readily seized upon by those bent on destroying it, has been

the fact of its association with the Treaty of Versailles, and that for various reasons it has been more prepared to maintain the *status quo* than to deal radically with legitimate grievances. The reason is not far to seek. States which are asked to cede territory or lose power in any way will not do so unless they have absolute security and know that the loss of power involved will not lead to their ultimate undoing. It cannot be said that the League of Nations or the Kellogg Pact or any other instrument has yet provided states with that security. The transfer of power by means of the cession of territory cannot be expected in a regime of unrestricted power politics. Thus we are forced to the realisation that international security must be created before the changes on the map can be made voluntarily, and that that security can only be realised through the creation of a solid framework of international law, backed by the majority of the forces available in the world. The international crisis should have at any rate the salutary effect of making men think afresh and of being prepared for changes on radical lines. It brings immense peril and immense opportunity. The main question at issue is—are we going to be big enough to grasp our opportunities?

G. S. J.

NOTE: Those interested in the kind of proposals indicated in the second part of this article should read *Union Now* by Clarence K. Streit (Jonathan Cape 10s. 6d.), a review of which appears on page 258. It is worth while to note that a society has just been formed to rally people holding these views and to spread the idea of international sovereignty more widely. It is called 'Federal Union,' and its supporters already include people of various political views and schools of thought. Its office is at 44, Gordon Square, London, W.C.1, and anyone interested should write for its most interesting first pamphlet, *Federal Union*, price 2d.

## Movements of T. H. Leprosy Workers

Hamish Macgregor returns home on leave this month and Bill Lambert departs for a new field of work in Uganda, sailing for Mombasa by the *Llanstephan Castle* on the

6th instant. Leslie Helps has been transferred to Oji River to take the place of A. J. Hardman, resigned.

## A GOOD SAMARITAN IN SPAIN

*This account of a 'job' in the Spanish War comes from JACK CLAY, of Boston Branch (Lincs.). It is fair to him to say that the title of the article is not of his choosing: he writes himself, "It was not a big job I did." He also wishes to stress the fact that he offered his services to either side which needed them. "To me, as a world citizen," he says, "all are worth helping."*

**D**URING 1937 I had the opportunity of seeing much of refugee work in Spain, and the Editor has asked me to write down some of my experiences. You must blame him for this article.

About Easter two years ago I heard that the I.V.S.P. (International Voluntary Service for Peace) were intending doing some relief work in Spain, and I offered to go and try to help. Of course I had no idea of what they would want or the kind of work involved, and was quite uncertain as to how I could be of any use at all, but being in good health, and able to drive anything on wheels, including 'trucks,' I offered to go out to either side, and was accepted.

At that time, it will be remembered, Madrid was in a state of siege, and the removal of children out into country areas

of four new three-ton Ford trucks fitted with extra petrol tanks so that each could do 500 miles without refuelling—capable,



*Spanish Transport—Old Style.*



*A Food-queue in Madrid.*

that is, of the journey from Valencia to Madrid and back. The utility of this will be easily seen. The bodies were fitted with seats which were detachable so that food could be carried one way, and each lorry pulled a trailer, heavily loaded with milk, foods, soap, clothing, etc. It took us a week to get down to Valencia, and to me at any rate it was a most interesting trip.

We fixed our headquarters in a village on the outskirts of Valencia, and rested a day or so before pushing on to Madrid. We had of course established ourselves with the local Government, so we could obtain petrol, which was always provided for us: it was controlled and impossible to buy.

The province of Valencia is perhaps the most fertile in the whole of Spain. Fruits and vegetables grow in profusion, helped

was urgent. So to Madrid we went. But first I met in Lausanne the rest of the I.V.S.P. party, comprising eight Swiss men and one lone Englishman. Only two of the men spoke English, so with the rest I had to use signs until we picked up a few words of Spanish, but yet we got along pretty well together. The outfit consisted

by a good system of irrigation. For forty miles the road runs through groves of oranges, peaches, apricots and grapes; then it starts to climb up to the central plateau of Spain, and the fruit gives way to less intensive farming. On this thinner soil wheat is the chief crop, and wandering



herds of goats are frequently seen. For cultivation single-beamed, pointed wooden ploughs, drawn by mules, are used, and corn is still cut by hand, threshed by "treading" with the mules, and winnowed by the wind.

The main roads are good—almost up to our own class A—yet by way of contrast when I once had to deliver a boy from Madrid to a village five kilometres off the main road, I found, after many enquiries, only a mule-cart track which would lead me to it. Leaving the other children in charge of a school-teacher, I started off with the truck. Imagine my surprise to find the whole village awaiting my approach. I discovered that only twice before had any motor vehicle entered their village. Yet every house had electric light. A strange contrast!

Approaching Madrid a detour of some miles was necessary and we met a strange collection of transport upon this last stretch—everything from donkeys to high-powered motor-cars, from mule-carts to

diesel-engined lorries.

My chief recollection of my first entry into Madrid is of swarms of children looking terribly thin, following my lorry, and whenever it was necessary to slacken speed crying "*Pan, pan*" (*bread*). I would often have liked to stop and just open case after case and throw tins out by the armful, but distribution must, of course, be organised, so we pushed on to our depôt.

What a pleasant city Madrid must have been in more peaceful times, with its wide streets lined with avenues of trees, where one could have sat at out-door cafés drinking coffee, wine, or best of all, their "*hot-chata*," with never any lack of company.

Already working under tremendous difficulties the civil authorities had established a refugee clearing-centre. Apart from the appalling food shortage the lack of transport was perhaps their greatest problem, so that our little fleet of four lorries could be very useful.

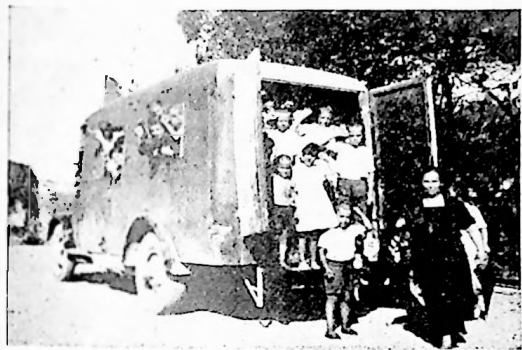
To this centre people flocked daily, as perhaps their home had been hit during one of the many bombardments. Their courage and acceptance of their lot was always a source of wonder to me. I doubt whether I could have been so cheerful having just seen my home in ruins and carrying my only possessions in a tiny bundle tied up in a piece of old sacking.

We used to load up with refugees, children first if possible, at about 7.30 in the morning. Records were kept by the Spanish officials, and filed in excellent order. It is to be hoped that these have not been lost in subsequent disorders.

What an adventure this journey must have been to these folk, few of whom had ever been out of their own city before! Where were to be their new homes? Were they to be as pawns to be moved time after time, or would they ever again be able to say "this home is mine?" Who would earn the means of obtaining food with

their men folk away, many of them never to return?

I always wanted to delay my departure as long as possible when I had a full load



of children. It was heartbreaking to part them from their parents. Who could blame them for tears? But Valencia was 380 kilometres away, and, as we had to do the journey in a day, the break had to be made. Something had to be done to cheer the kiddies up, so being with people who would not know a word of English or have any idea of English tunes, I was quite safe in doing what I never attempt to do at home—I tried to sing; and it was not long before I could stop and leave my passengers to carry on on their own. So we left the city with them forgetting for the time being the parting.

About half-way we stopped for our picnic lunch by the fountain of Alivares as the water was safe and good. Our meal consisted of one "bread" per person, about five inches long by three wide, oval-shaped, and dark yellow throughout, made from maize flour. Good teeth were essential for coping with this. If we had any corned beef or chocolate—provided by relief units—it was an occasion to remember. Such a thing as butter we never saw.

We always found these villagers good to us. Once I had to come away without any food at all with 43 children, who I knew

had had practically no breakfast. What could I do? I had not sufficient money to buy food for the lot, even if I could have found any to buy. So I turned off into the village of Volverde, where I woke the mayor from his siesta. After I had explained who I was and what I wanted, he turned the whole village out to find us a meal, and what a meal it was—bread, potatoes and eggs, for it was June and harvest time. All this delayed me a good deal, so I sent off a telegram to Valencia advising my late arrival. We arrived sixteen hours before the telegram!

Mostly our journeys were uneventful, but once, not far out from Madrid, we stopped on a piece of open road to change a wheel on the trailer. All my passengers were out stretching their cramped legs, when five aeroplanes suddenly appeared and flew over us, turned back in a circle, then over us again, much lower this time. You can guess how quickly my "fares" scattered to cover. The pilots must have read the names on the long top and sides of our trucks, and seen our flags, for at last they flew off again. I looked for their markings, but could not see any, so they might have belonged to either side.

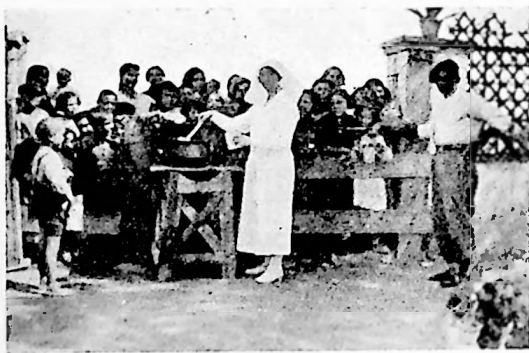
We delivered our children to a centre in Valencia from where they went to colonies dotted all over the safer provinces, Valencia, Alicante, Murcia, etc. One of the principal centres had formerly been a church, a large well-built place with stained-glass windows still intact. I always liked to think of it sheltering homeless people who were ready for a night's rest. I know their driver was always grateful for it, especially if we were a bit late, as local conditions necessitated driving the last few miles without even side-lights.

It was in this church that I spent my first night in Valencia after having had a meal underneath the main railway station. The meal consisted of rice fried in olive oil,



with a few scraps of meat, fish and snails thrown in, served in one huge frying-pan, large enough for the whole party, and set in the centre of our table. There was nothing else for us; no bread to help it down, only good red wine and a liberal supply of oranges.

Possibly the most distressing scenes I saw was down in Murcia and Almeria. I used to take supplies from Valencia to the English Hospitals for children there. Most of the cases were typhoids, which was not surprising, for in one Valencia building—a fairly large disused factory—were housed nearly 4,000 people with only two lavatories! The hopeless misery in their faces must have been seen to be believed. I used to ask myself how in such vile conditions these people could somehow still hang on to life. To think of the future must have seemed like looking at a blank wall with no escape. Babies were born and people died within a few yards of each other, and their sufferings had been so great that they seemed to be stupefied, doing nothing to help themselves. Most of them had walked 300 miles to get to such a haven as this,



*A cousin of Edith Cavell runs a Soup Kitchen.*

and this was only one of many such buildings in this old city where bullock wagons are still used.

What grand work these hospitals did! And how these English nurses worked

during those hot summer months of July, August and September! Their difficulties were great, for everything had to be improvised, always for too many patients. They were not always able even to get bread. Down in Almeria we had three weeks without bread, meat or potatoes.

To help along this work and to prevent an increase in typhoid a "colony" was organised in conjunction with the local council up in the hills 50 kilometres out of the city in the heart of a pine-wood forest. A schoolmaster was in charge of it, and the children had lessons in the open air so that their time was usefully filled. Climbing up those hills was hard work on those hot summer days. I never got up with more than 25 cwts. on a two-ton van, and the radiator water always boiled. At one zig-zag corner I once met a cart with three mules, pulling tandem fashion, so heavily loaded with charcoal that they could get no further. Having two American Quaker friends with me I borrowed some pesetas, and knowing that our hospital was short of charcoal, I bought half the load, leaving it on the side of the road until I came back from the colony, so that both of us could again proceed.

I hope I have not given the impression that I had no good things to enjoy during my 34 weeks in Spain. I had very many, and made many good friends, who were always helpful and always willing to share even their last cigarette. Having had this experience I can say that the best way to know our fellow men is to do a job of work with them for others.

Who is our neighbour, and what is our duty towards him? Let us remember the old story of the man who went down from Jerusalem to Jericho and fell among thieves. Three men came along, but only one stopped. Only one was able to forget the ancient differences of race and creed, and see only someone in trouble. J. C.

## A BAG OF BOOKS

### A Set of Five

*We asked five people to pick out five books each—not necessarily new books but those they had themselves enjoyed reading. One member of this team here gives his selection.*

*The Incredible Church.* By J. W. Stevenson. James Clarke & Co. 3s. 6d.

*A Daughter of the Samurai.* By Mrs. Sugimoto. The Paternoster Library, Hurst & Blackett. 3s. 6d.

*After Everest.* By T. H. Somervell. H. & S. The *Black Jacket* Edition. 2s.

*Private Worlds.* By Phyllis Bottome. Penguin. 6d.

*Portrait of a Village.* By Francis Brett Young. Heineman. 8s. 6d.

None of the above books has been written recently, though I have only read them during the past few months. All have a common element—beauty—at least for me, though I suppose that some might think one of them morbid, another strained and yet another merely curious.

*The Incredible Church.*

Most of us born in this century, or even in the latter part of the last century, have not experienced the incredible Church as Mr. Stevenson speaks of the Church. We may or may not be ardent Churchgoers, but all of us have had more and more to say of, for, or against the Church, and our criticisms most of all perhaps have revealed our longing for a living creative fellowship speaking in the name of the Lord. In this book through one man's intimately personal experience, given with restraint and therefore most movingly, we see the Church that is always incredible until its appearance. It is a Church triumphant yet seeming to lose everything, joyous yet always filling up that which is lacking in the sufferings of Christ, spiritual and therefore deeply concerned about the social, industrial and international affairs of man. As I read this book I saw the King in His beauty and the land of far distances.

*A Daughter of the Samurai.*

Mrs. Sugimoto's autobiography delighted and entranced me. I suppose we all became Europeans last September and even those of us who prefer books about our own country and people, are finding it easier to pick up books about other lands and people.

I picked this book up and did not want to put it down until I realised I should so soon

finish it, so I paused, re-read many pages, paused again to find myself in the land of far distances, that is, not in Japan or America, the book's two settings, but in the country of the King of all peoples. The entrancing quality was not so much in the frequent quaint phrase, nor in the cherry-blossomed atmosphere, but rather in the revelations of a beautiful personality whose mind searched and questioned and yet knew loyalty. I only borrowed the book, but I must buy it.

*After Everest.*

This autobiography, like all others, is incomplete, yet satisfying. There is here nothing of Mrs. Sugimoto's gentleness that looks so fragile, but which is in reality like tempered steel. Here is something masculine, massive, but still at its heart gentle and therefore full of beauty. It is not merely yet another Everest book, for many pages speak of the writer's youth and the latter part tells of his experiences as a missionary doctor in South India.

Another window into yet another person's life was opened for me and, through him and his experiences, given simply and without a trace of extravagance, I caught a glimpse of the people of India.

*Private Worlds.*

Having read Miss Bottome's *The Mortal Storm*, I turned with eagerness to *Private Worlds*, picked up on a railway bookstall by chance. Immediately I found myself in a mental home (for that is the setting) and stayed there intensely interested until the end. Those who are afraid of sanity and those who like to "play the ostrich" when met by any peculiar kind of suffering, should read this

book, because they will see what a thin line divides sanity from insanity and they will find the comfort of suffering. But I saw more than this. I saw, though in novel form, the beauty of man's love for man, stricken and not so stricken. Little is given about the actual patients, much is revealed of the increasingly common attitude of those who love and serve those whose minds have lost their balance. It is not such a strange world as we think, but it is always a private world and therefore must be entered humbly and reverently.

*Portrait of a Village.*

So I come back to my own country into the

seeming quiet of the English villages and their people I love so well. But they are never so quiet as they seem on the surface and they are far from dull, least of all their people. Mr. Brett Young drew me with his pen into the lanes and cottages of those who do not share our lust for speed and, as I read, like the prophet Ezekiel, I sat where they sat and remained astonished for seven days, although I have lived with them for many years. But I do not think any reader need be a countryman to love this book: all that is needed is a love of simple things and of the beauty of plain men and women in their struggles, failures, humours and sorrows of living.

J. P.

## Finding a Way through

*Union Now.* C. K. Streit. Jonathan Cape. 10s. 6d.

My first introduction to this book was when I heard it described as likely to be epoch-making in its effect. The statement was no publisher's "blurb," but the considered opinion of one whose wide practical experience of the art of government and whose sound judgment have caused him to be appointed to one of the most responsible posts which a man could hold in the present condition of world affairs.

Mr. Streit is an American who served in the War, was present at the Peace Conference of Versailles and has since, as a journalist, watched and noted the progress and decline of the League of Nations. In the course of those years there has been borne in on him the conviction that the hopes of the world have foundered on the rock of absolute national sovereignty. He has therefore come forward with the bold proposal that the solution of our present ills is to be found not in any league of sovereign states but in the surrender by such states of a portion of their sovereignty in order to form not a League but a Union.

It is probable that at this stage such a proposal could only come from an American, because the United States furnishes in its own history the classical application of the principle. It is difficult for English people

to realise that America is not the United States but, as its citizens are careful to call it, "these" United States, not a single country, but the perpetual union of 48 sovereign states, each surrendering a portion of its sovereignty for the sake of the unity of the whole. Mr. Streit describes how after the War of Independence the League of Friendship of the then thirteen "free and independent" states brought them in a few years to economic catastrophe and the verge of war, and how disaster was averted by the bold step of union. A similar boldness in his view is required now and can alone be effective to prevent a similar disaster, this time world-wide.

To the ordinary Englishman, and still more perhaps to the ordinary European, the idea is likely to seem at first entirely fantastic. Mr. Streit devotes 400 pages to the working out of the practicability of his plan. Many of them are not easy pages, for the subject, when it is attacked in detail, bristles with difficulties, though the main thesis remains remarkably clear throughout.

Whatever conclusion the individual reader may come to, he cannot help but find that reading this book will stimulate his own mind in its efforts to grapple with a problem which has a grim practicality for all of us.

There are many men in Toc H to-day who find themselves urged irresistibly to look beyond the immediate necessities of national security in a world organised for war to the attempt to find a way through to a solution of the problems of human government which will bring peace and freedom to the individual. Such a solution will not drop ready-

made from heaven. It will come only as individual men are prepared to agonise about it, fitting whatever they have of intellect and faith in the struggle to find it. To all such—and they are, thank God, very many in all countries—Mr. Streit's book, whether they accept his conclusions or not, will be a valuable stimulus.  
H. A. S.

## The Citizen's Job

*The Community and Social Service.* By William Blackshaw. Pitman. 7s. 6d.

The time is passing when Toc H threw its enthusiastic but inadequately trained manpower into the field of social service, regardless of the history and noble tradition of the voluntary movement. There is still much ignorance of the scope of, and the need for, the voluntary society; there is still more ignorance, or perhaps lack of understanding, of statutory social service. Here is a book which will help tremendously those already engaged in social work as well as those who feel the urge to devote their time and energy likewise.

Based on a series of lectures delivered at the Mansfield House University Settlement, East London, the book provides an informative review of modern social problems and surveys the measures, both statutory and voluntary, that have been taken to improve the welfare of all sections of the community.

One of the main features of the book is "to encourage a mutual understanding and a spirit of co-operation among all engaged in the service of the community." This Mr. Blackshaw undoubtedly achieves. One leaves the book with an entirely new regard and

admiration for the efforts of workers in the social sphere, and in particular of the public officials, whose endeavours are too often regarded with impatience, if not with cynicism.

The book is easy to read and deals comprehensively, without descending to much detail, with the State and Education, the Young Offender and Housing, the development and scope of the Poor Law, Public Health and Environment and the Individual, Factory Legislation and voluntary and statutory Health Insurance, with opening chapters on the structure of local government and of the government of London, methods of administration and a valuable chapter on the relation of voluntary and statutory social service. There are useful bibliographies at the end of most chapters and lists of suggestions for action with the names and addresses of public and private bodies with whom contact should be made when excursions into the social service field are contemplated. It is a book which should find its place in all unit libraries and would be a valuable reference book for Jobmasters.

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*The A.B.C. of Local Government.* By C. Kent Wright. Evans. 4s. 6d.

"It may be said that the acid test of the stability and durability of democratic institutions and of a democratic state is the attitude of the citizen to the local authority and to local institutions." The foregoing is an extract from the book reviewed above, *The Community and Social Service*, and is alive with a challenge to all who value the maintenance and continuance of the principles on which our democracy is based.

Mr. Kent Wright earns our gratitude for producing a book in simple, informal and untechnical language revealing the "mysteries" of local government about which so much indifference and ignorance is prevalent. It is published in conjunction with the National Association of Local Government Officers and deals with every form and phase of local authority throughout the country, the relations between them and the central

authority and with the multitudinous duties involved in the business of running a village, town or city. There are numerous art plates with a glossary of terms, a short bibliography and a subject index.

Members would find the book of great value and a study of it would amply repay them by a fresh interest in the amenities of everyday life which, because of their very familiarity, are taken so much for granted.  
R. L. W.

## MULTUM IN PARVO

☛ HUBERT SECRETAN will be sailing from Southampton on September 2 for Canada, where he will be present at the Eastern Canada Festival in Ottawa and the first all-Canada Conference at Winnipeg. He hopes to visit also Quebec, Montreal, Toronto, Calgary and Vancouver, returning by about the beginning of December. He will be accompanied by Padre CYRIL PEARSON, who is resigning his appointment as Hon. Joint Chief Overseas Commissioner and hopes on his return to work for Toc H in some other sphere. These journeys will not entail any charge on Toc H funds. ARTHUR EDGAR will carry on Hubert's work during his absence, and F. E. SARGOOD remains as Hon. Joint Chief Overseas Commissioner.

☛ IAN FRASER (Area Pilot in Scotland) is being seconded to the staff of the Eastern Canada Region for a period of about ten months from August 1. He will work

with JIM JACKSON, the Regional Secretary. ☛ Congratulations to the Chairman of the East Midlands Area Executive, Lieut.-Colonel R. E. MARTIN, on receiving the honour of knighthood.

☛ The following Groups are congratulated on their promotion to Branch status: SOUTHGATE (Northern London Area) and SPRINGS (Transvaal), Southern Africa).

☛ Groups have recently been recognised at *Chigwell* and *South Benfleet* (Eastern London Area), *Southall* (Western London Area), *Chesham* (Chilterns Area), *Breedon-on-the-Hill* (East Midlands Area), *Ledbury* and *Whitnash* (West Midlands Area), *Middlewood* (Manchester Area), *Chorley* (North-Western Area), *Seaton* (Lakeland Area), *Malmesbury-Stainsbridge*, *Portishead* and *Tewkesbury* (Western Area), *Camborne*, *Dulverton* and *Wonford* (South Western Area), *Godreaman* (South Wales Area).

## An Anglo-Belgian Re-union

On Sunday, June 11, an especially interesting party of visitors was entertained by Paul Slessor (in his capacity as President of the "Association Talbot House de Poperinghe"). The "Fraternelle du 13th Belgian Field Artillery" (Old Comrades' Association) had asked to be allowed to visit the Old House, a request which was of course gladly acceded to.

The 13th Belgian Field Artillery was a composite Belgian regiment placed by the late King Albert at the disposal of the British 5th Corps early in 1915 and from then onwards was attached to, and fought side by

side with, our troops in the Ypres Salient.

H.R.H. The Duke of Connaught, their Honorary President, sent them a cordial message of welcome and good cheer to the Old House, and after a welcoming speech from Paul Slessor to General de Kuyper and those accompanying him and a moving reply from the General, a tour was made of the Old House, old history recalled, and Toc H explained. The party then proceeded to Ypres for their Annual Banquet, where Paul Slessor made further personal contact with the members of the party, and enjoyed their hospitality.

# THE FAMILY CHRONICLE

## From the South Western Area

The fact that this dispatch is entrusted to one who, five years ago, was considered a 'foreigner' shows that the inherent good sense and friendliness of the West Country remains as potent as ever. The further fact that the South Western Area can face up to a challenge was demonstrated in no uncertain fashion at a Conference held on June 3-4. When 60 potential leaders met in one of the beauty spots of S. Devon to arrive at which tested the pioneering spirit of Toc H explorers—when these men talked together, prayed, listened, resolved, and even bathed together, it is only to be expected that they came away re-inspired and re-dedicated. Certain it is that those who were privileged to attend what should normally have been an Area Executive week-end must, under the fatherly guidance of Rex Calkin and their Chairman, Doc Courtney, and the efficient management of Greeno, have gone back to their unit life encouraged and buoyed up—and perhaps having a warmer spot in their heart for the 'brass hats.'

The Conference was the climax, not only of the past few months, but of the history of the Area. The future cannot be an anti-climax, but assuredly a succession of similar climaxes. The outstanding impression which remains is that Toc H can and will use a crisis as an opportunity for showing its true worth. Since the last message from this Area perhaps the most important fact to record is an outstanding realisation that the membership must do more (and talk less). This realisation was recently intensified when the Area Staff was reduced to one, and when, despite that one's willingness and capabilities, it became essential to relieve him of unimportant burdens.

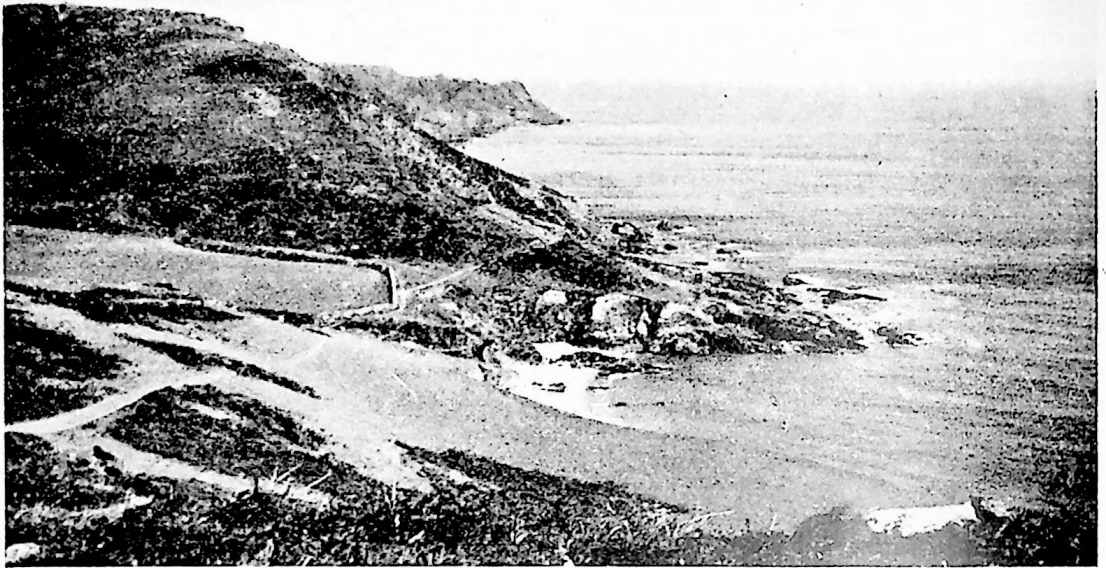
Had a theme or slogan been required for the Conference it would, obviously, have been 'District Consciousness.' The time has come when, if no other reason dictates it, the deficiency in Area Staff compels decentralisation. Decentralisation demands that District Officers shoulder additional burdens and give

expression to increased powers of leadership. There must be more cohesion, more fundamental planning, a deeper family spirit. That these demands will be met cannot be doubted. To this end it was appropriate that the title of the talks given should have been: 'The Sharing of Responsibility,' 'The Right Attitude towards Finance and the Spirit of Giving' and 'The Trivial Round, the Common Task'; and that at the conclusion of the Conference certain concrete proposals were adopted which would ensure that the policy for the future would reach every member in the Area.

The S.W. Area can already boast that, in 12 months, Unit contributions have increased from £368 to £431, and Builders' Subscriptions from £93 to £141. But the Area is not satisfied. It is determined to show other Areas what can be done. It is determined that every member shall take time to re-assess himself. Furthermore, it is believed that there is sometimes a misuse of unit funds, and that Treasurers and Bursars must remember the needs of Toc H The World which must be built bravely and to the limit of each one's capabilities. The whole question of finance can, and ought to be, kept on a cheerful note. Nevertheless, parochialism is prevalent still; we have not explored the possibilities of Member Builders; relative financial loyalty to the Unit and the Area must be honestly faced; the transferred member has been sadly neglected. In connection with this important matter of transferred members, the Conference appointed Area Members' Secretaries who, if units co-operate in the manner desired, will do much to keep enthusiasm alive in those who, in the past, have had some excuse for feeling that they have been forgotten. Finally, in so far as finance is concerned, new members must be taught the real art of sacrificial giving.

Once again a new departure in the form of conscription calls for a new effort on the part of Toc H. The Conference heard from Rex how Toc H in this Area—where several





*From the Conference window—Start Point and the Channel*

new camps for Militiamen are hurriedly being prepared—can prove once again that a Club for Everyman is appreciated. Here again it was agreed that this was a task to which every District Team should address itself; and since every Team in the Area has arranged to hold a week-end Conference of its own in the near future, an excellent opportunity occurs for some practical thinking and doing.

Finally, members of Toc H, when they 'Go Great Western' for their holidays, may

justifiably expect to find that West Country welcome in the future even more than in the past. Although a large majority of members 'down this way' are working overtime to put this welcome into practical effect, every effort will henceforward be made to ensure that units meet regularly on advertised nights throughout the year.

The S.W. Area thinks it has held an epoch-making Conference; it is proud of its past, and it expects to be prouder of its future.

G. L. A.

### From the Notts and Derby Area

A few week-ends ago the Area Pilgrimage was held. A dozen of us visited the 'Old House' and the 'Gardens of Remembrance' in the Ypres Salient in the way that is becoming familiar to an increasing number of our fellowship. On the Sunday morning we sat on the lawn and just talked together, most of us giving expression to what was in

our minds. What was impressive about the talking was that there was nothing stereotyped about it but each member was saying in his own way what he was feeling and thinking. The general note was one of challenge which came to each one personally—"What is Toc H to me, what have I to offer to others in these difficult days?"

This note of challenge is one that has sounded through the Area during the year under review for it has been a time of experiment, of increased responsibility, and of a greater realisation that Toc H has something to pass on to others.

The Nottingham Area Office was closed last August and Gil Harrison, who for five years had worked hard in the Area, was transferred to London. The needs of economy had made this drastic step necessary, but from the first it was clear that the leaders of the Area, on the Executive, in District Teams and in units, were determined to turn this disadvantage into an opportunity for greater service. Voluntary helpers have gladly assisted as honorary secretaries of various committees and as Area members' secretaries, and District Teams have responded well in the exercise of new powers given to them. We feel this is a sound policy and future needs will see further developments of it. The chief effect of this policy of devolution has been to emphasise to a greater degree the importance of closer human relationships and of personal contact and that, whilst a certain amount of machinery is necessary, yet it must be only as an aid to these contacts and relationships, and not a substitute for them.

We have been grateful for the visits of a number of helpers who have taught and inspired those whom they have met and to whom they have spoken. Padre Herbert Leggate spoke at the Area rallies and led the sessions of a Padres Conference last September. Angus Johnston gave of his best at a series of Guest-nights. Sawbones paid a visit to Derby, whilst Neville Talbot, who resides in this Area, has always responded to our requests. These have given us 'mountain-top' experiences and in addition much to think over.

Training week-ends at Shardlow, Southwell and Hleanor have been valuable for their fellowship and also for the opportunity they gave of quiet discussion, in congenial surroundings, about some of the deeper things. At Shardlow the week-end was held in the Poor Law Institution. The Master of the

Institution is a great friend of Toc H and tells us how much he enjoys having our members at his Institution!

On the whole the year has been one of progress. Ashfield District 'hived off' from Nottingham District and has now become permanently established. *Workshop Branch* has received its Lamp and *Bonsall* and *New Mills Groups* their Rushlights. A new Group is being started at Bolsover and many of the District Teams are giving an increasing amount of care and thought to the work of extension.

All the usual jobs have been carried on. In some cases there has been extension of some of these jobs, whilst in addition there have been new ventures and experiments. Last year 340 boys were entertained at the Derby Poor Boys' Camp and included in that number were some from Burton who asked to join in with Derby in order that their leaders might gain experience in Boys' Camp work, with a view to running their own camp this year.

One Group produced a minor sensation in a District Team Meeting by its representative stating that for a month they were not holding any meeting except just for 'Light' and business, but that the whole Group would spend their time digging, planting and sowing a piece of land with a view to giving the produce to needy people in the village, and if any was left over it would be given to the local hospital.

B.E.L.R.A., too, has received much support from this Area, especially in the High Peak District, where the local organising Secretary, Hugh Pilcher, who is also District Jobmaster, has raised over £30. He has now been appointed honorary organising Secretary for Derbyshire.

Early in March of this year, the well-established Monday lunch club for Toc H members in the Nottingham District "blossomed forth" into wider channels. The *Nottingham Branch* Headquarters at 72, St. James's Street, an old Georgian residence in the shadow of the famous Castle, were, after a very necessary overhaul, opened to the business folk of the City, under the style of



"Mine Host" makes coffee at the "Pop-In Club."

the "Pop-In Club." Here, those folk, young and old alike, whose practice it has been to have a sandwich lunch in town—generally upon an office desk or amongst bales of merchandise—can, in congenial surroundings and lively company, take their mid-day meal.

The accommodation at the club consists of a room where fellows can obtain tea or coffee at a nominal charge and have their own lunch with it. There is a separate reading room with a regular supply of daily papers and also a separate games room, equipped with table tennis and dart boards, in the old spacious basement kitchen, now referred to as the "Dungeon." In addition, the garden has been "renovated" and a quoits court and skittle alley installed.

"Mine host" is a very

popular figure. His coffee, being made in the manner common to Vienna, provides the *piece de resistance* of the luncheon, and his anecdotes of his European travels are many. He is an Englishman who, after building a successful business in Austria, was compelled to take refuge in his native land at the time of Austria's incorporation into the Reich.

The Club is undoubtedly providing a long-felt need, and its amenities are being favourably commented on by the local press and heads of business houses. A regular rota has been drawn up to provide the necessary staff and the number of fellows willing to give up their usual mid-day meal at home that they might better serve others, has been most encouraging, whilst the Committee responsible for the catering and programmes, on which a majority is held by the Club members, has shown itself keen to effect any improvement to the services or premises, irrespective of the individual time expended.

New circumstances bring new opportunities. Derby is to be one of the depôts to be used by the new Militia and we are expecting the first contingent next month. The District has already formed a 'Services Committee' which intends to do all they can to offer them the friendship of Toc H.

P. W. W.



A game of Tenniquoit at the "Pop-In Club."

## THE OPEN HUSTINGS

### Toc H and the Services

DEAR SIR,

The article in the June JOURNAL and the Services Secretaries' letter in the same issue prompt me to write a few lines on what seems to be the biggest problem, and at the same time the biggest opportunity, post-war Toc H has met.

There is no sane person, and certainly no Service man, who does not deplore the condition of the world that has necessitated the present unparalleled re-strengthening of the armed forces of the Crown. But whilst the necessity remains we must face facts and see where Toc H stands.

Let us be frank. During the years of "Peace" the ordinary membership have in many instances regarded the Services with apathy and, although much has been done in overseas stations, very little in proportion has been done in the Mother Country really to tackle the Services problems.

I have always watched with keen interest the great work of the Service Secretaries who have, I feel, been under strict limitations. Getting Toc H over to Service men is a difficult problem and calls for specialized treatment, but they form some of the nation's finest manhood and are worthy of a superlative effort.

Recruitment of young chaps to Toc H has already for various reasons (some of our own making) begun to prove difficult in many parts and, whilst Toc H must always have its elder members to give it wisdom and advice and take their place in the Family, nevertheless, if we are to retain the spirit of adventure, it must have the virility of young men within it.

With the introduction of conscription the problem is going to be intensified, because in due course it may be difficult to make contact with many fellows until after they are 25. Our present meetings also are showing in many places the effects of members answering the call of National Service in some form or other by incomplete attendances. What are we going to do?

Remember, Service men are not always free to come to the regular meetings just when a local unit arranges them. Service men are also pretty wise guys, and the mere placing of a notice on the Camp Board probably makes no more effect on a chap who knows nothing about Toc H than a notice about the village Bible Class, admirable as such a class may be.

I know from experience that Service chaps are grand fellows, but they are human like the rest of us; the only difference is they wear uniform. Local units very seldom cater specially for them; they generally suit themselves and hope the Service chaps will turn up, whereas they should be prepared to alter their times and arrange the programme sometimes specially for them. This necessitates close contact with the local camps, but contact is not difficult if a local unit really wants to make it. Never let it be said that Toc H has lost the art of making friends!

None of these things, however, is a real solution; at their best they are only makeshift. There always has been only one way out, namely, the establishment of a real Talbot House near every important Camp or Service Station, run on the traditional lines of friendship, hospitality and the Master's guidance, used so well in Poperinghe and again already in some overseas stations.

I do not for one moment believe the difficulties to be insurmountable if we all pulled our weight and tackled it with determination.

It is sufficiently important for the full-time staff and all our resources to be used in running such Houses and really spreading this great heritage of Toc H which we have among Service men, as it was at the start. It would help us to sweep away all the narrow-mindedness and parochialism that has recently been permeating Toc H. I believe that by so serving and appealing to the youth of the Nation we shall be sowing the real seeds of something much nearer to the ideals which Tubby and most of us have faith will sometime come. I am firmly convinced this to be more than a challenge to the Member-

ship: I believe that on it depends the whole future of Toc H.

Our watchword should be "Action, not words." I pray that history will not say we did not have the faith and courage to grasp the greatest opportunity God has given us.

In 1914-18 Tubby and his glorious comrades laid the foundations of this great family to which we are privileged to belong. Let us younger chaps play our part to seize the present chance to follow their example and hand on the message to others as we have had it handed to us.

It is difficult—but so it was for Tubby. He succeeded, so can we, with God's same help.

Yours sincerely,  
NICK SMITH.

London.

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DEAR EDITOR,

The article in last month's JOURNAL—"Serving the Militiamen"—is having its repercussions and news is coming in of townsfolk in various places, through the instigation of Toc H units, taking up the question of the entertainment of the militiamen and other troops in various ways. Arrangements are being made to open up Toc H rooms every day, hosts are coming forward with invitations to tea, games, supper and so on, and it is evident that units in many places are using their powers of imagination and vision. These two attributes are just what are vitally necessary. It is to be hoped that wherever troops are concentrated, full use of every available opportunity will be made to ensure that no possible effort is spared to further the ends in view.

At this stage it would be invidious to mention those units which are known to have begun preliminary steps already to get things going. In one place, however, where the Territorial Army is expected for fortnightly periods of training, a public meeting was called which was well attended, and a number of people who it was considered would be interested were personally invited. A suitable room was procured and a committee was formed consisting of at least one repre-

sentative of each of the local Churches and other interested public bodies. The share of Toc H was to provide a Secretary and Treasurer, and of course considerable help with the rota of men helpers. Within two days of the meeting, sufficient help, financial and otherwise, was forthcoming, and within a week the room was officially opened. The Garrison Commander was good enough to supply the names of the units and dates of their visits in advance, and a circular letter was then sent to the Adjutant of each unit, together with a questionnaire which he was asked to complete and return. This of course applies to the Territorial Army but may be a guide to what is possible to be done in connection with the Militia.

The room was provided adequately with chairs, small tables, writing paper, cards and envelopes, easy chairs and plenty of magazines, papers and books, also free copies of the London evening papers daily. In addition, a table-tennis table, a couple of darts boards and plenty of packs of cards and board games. All furniture has been loaned, but the Committee has purchased a piano for £5 and a wireless set for £2 10s. od. The room is open on all weekdays from 7 to 10.30 p.m. and on Sundays from 8 to 10.30 p.m. Three ladies per night are required to cut sandwiches, wash up and so on, and one lady is responsible for the catering for the whole time the room is open, and other for the rota of helpers. At least one man is required to be in attendance per night, and this is organized by Toc H. There are "double crown" posters advertising the room in the Camp itself, and of course everything has been done with the approval of the Garrison Commander.

This example of what one Toc H unit has been able to initiate is given, not as a method to be rigidly imitated but rather as a proof of the sort of thing which is possible.

Yours sincerely,  
PAUL SLESSOR,  
DALLAS RALPH,  
*Secretaries for the Services.*

47, Francis Street, S.W.1.



## The Weekly Meeting

DEAR EDITOR,

Having read with great interest the report of the discussion on General Membership which took place at the annual meeting of the Central Council, I feel impelled, with your permission, to draw attention to the fashionable, but in my view, mistaken tendency to minimise the value of the weekly meeting.

To my mind the gathering together regularly week by week of all kinds and conditions of men is essential to the practice of that fellowship which Toc H exists to create and foster. Would to God that more of the "busy senior" men would make the effort to take a cup of tea and a bun with Bill Jones or lend a hand at washing the crocks with Harry Smith. Who knows what the effect on the outlook of our captains of industry and leaders of municipal and national politics might be?

"Burdened with the duty of attending a weekly meeting"! Shades of Tubby and the Old House! Exceptions there must be, but rather than treat attendance at the weekly meeting as a wearisome duty which is now essential, let us insist upon its vital importance and sympathise with the member who unfortunately has to miss it.

Yours sincerely,

Ruislip.

W. E. CAIN.

## A Service Members' Reunion

DEAR EDITOR,

I have a suggestion to make, which, I think, will find favour among most Service people in Toc H. It is this. That a re-union or guest-night (what's in a name?) be held in London some time in the autumn, for service people and people connected with the Services.

Some people may ask why this should be necessary—is it not against the mixture maxim, or why should one section of Toc H be favoured? Headquarters know the answer to that. They have found it necessary, due to the movements of the Services, in England and throughout the world, to set

up a separate office to deal with them.

It is this moving about that makes such a re-union almost a necessity. A group of men on a course attend the local Toc H unit: at the end of the course, flung to the far corners of England, the majority never have the chance of meeting again. Men overseas, at Malta perhaps, meet members of the other two Services; ships leave for other ports, a regiment is posted home and airmen finish their "Cook's Tour." I am sure most of these would appreciate the chance of meeting again the friends they have made in Toc H.

Yours sincerely,

HARRY RICHMOND (Cpl.),

No. 32 Squadron, R.A.F.,

Biggin Hill, Kent.

NOTE: *The Services Secretaries would welcome the opportunity of organising a reunion of members in the three Services who have been overseas, and would like to receive suggestions as to (a) the most suitable centre, (b) whether a week-end (Saturday tea-time to Sunday tea-time) or just an evening would be preferable, (c) the best date and time (the end of October has been suggested). The sooner the Services Secretaries (47, Francis Street, S.W.1) receive suggestions the better.*

## Work Camps

DEAR EDITOR,

In reference to the recent articles on Work Camps in the JOURNAL, we need many more teams this summer for the distressed areas, chiefly to help unemployed men on allotments. The cost is the travelling, plus 3/6 a day board and lodging which goes to the unemployed families with whom we are billeted. I shall be very glad to give further details.

Yours sincerely,

JOHN S. HOYLAND.

Woodbrooke Settlement,

Selly Oak, Birmingham.

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DEAR EDITOR,

Under the title "From Spades to Hearts," there is an article in last month's JOURNAL about a Work Camp. Those who were in-



terested in the article might like to know about another kind of Work Camp which is going to be run this summer in Dorset.

The Camp, which is called a Land Service Camp, will be from June 26 to July 15 and any man between 18 and 25 will be very welcome to the Camp if he wants a three-weeks' spell of continuous community living and, at the same time, the opportunity for manual labour linked with lectures, discussions and recreational activities. He will work, play, and think along with 60 or 70 others of about his own age, some of them unemployed, some of them University students, and some of them factory and office workers.

A Land Service Camp is not a holiday centre. The manual work will be strenuous; so will the discussion of social and political

problems. The result will be an increased sense of responsibility towards our fellow men and towards our common but often abused heritage, the land. If this dual responsibility appeals to you, please write to the *Camp Secretary, Springhead, Fontmell Magna, Nr. Shaftesbury, Dorset*, and he will tell you details of the Camp. The Camp will cost you nothing. Everyone attending will receive food, accommodation and equipment free of charge. Grants towards railway fares will be made where needed. And if the dates of this Camp are not convenient, you will be welcome to a similar Camp in the same place from August 22 to September 6.

Yours sincerely,

London, N.W.5.

A. R. CLACK.

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#### Acknowledgments

We make grateful acknowledgments to the *Nottingham Journal* for permission to reproduce the two pictures on page 264. All the remaining photographs this month were taken by Toc H members, to whom we offer our sincere thanks.

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#### To Remind You

That, as last year, there will be NO JOURNAL published in AUGUST, and that the next issue will appear on September 1. Eleven monthly issues are published annually, one of which is a Double Number, which compensates for the absence of a JOURNAL one month. The 1939 Double Number (*The Linkmen*, Part II) appeared in February.